THE TROPICAL ISSUE

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Galveston County

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Why We Like Tropicals

Kathy Maines

I do not know about you, but I am certainly looking forward to this issue on tropical plants. According to the National Geographic Society, the tropics lie between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. This includes the area of the Earth along the Equator. Temperatures in the tropics average from 77 to 82 ° year-round and there are just two seasons, a wet season and a dry season.

Does this include Galveston County? Of course not, but that does not keep us from growing and loving our tropical plants! Why do we love our tropicals? Is it because we have so many to choose from? Is it because they make us feel like we are in the tropics? Loretta Osteen (MG 2010) fell in love with plumeria while on a family vacation to Hawaii over 20 years ago. She says, "Even though humans depend on plants that produce fruits and vegetables, there is something about fragrance and beauty that feeds the soul." In this issue Mary Jane Fortney shares her experiences of loving plumeria.

There are tropical plants for inside or outside, sun or shade. Some are really easy to grow. The International Oleander Society states that Galveston is known worldwide as The Oleander City. The first oleanders arrived in Galveston on a ship from Jamaica in 1841 and were easy to grow in Galveston's heat, soil and salty air. We like tropical plants with edible fruit. Maybe we also like tropicals because of their history. When Hibiscus were brought to Europe they could not live outdoors because of the climate. They were brought indoors and placed by the stove where it was warm. Because of this they were called stove plants.

I think we probably all have our favorite tropical plants and our very own reason for loving them. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The earth laughs in flowers." Maybe we like tropical plants just because they make us happy.

Kathy Maines

Slipping into Summer

Karolyn Gephart

The month of May finds us in flip flops, visiting the beach and planning trips for the coming summer. Tropical plants accommodate our mood and begin showing off their beauty with so many choices of plants.

In this issue we will learn more about favorite tropicals of Master Gardeners in Galveston County and what the plants like and need to be a permanent fixture in your home. From plumeria and orchids to hibiscus, monstera, bougainvillea and gingers, the tropical menu is vast and each one brings beauty, originality and a touch of summer with them.

Enjoy our new Photo Gallery page. This photo of a tree frog was taken by GCMG Stacey Phillips.

GCMG Jackie Auer sent me this quip from Will Rogers for all to enjoy:

Your life is a garden, your thoughts are the seeds.

If your life isn't awesome, you're watering the weeds!

Peruse garden tasks for what needs to be done in a timely way and help Galveston County Master Gardeners celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Enjoy!

Karolyn Gephart

Photo by Stacey Phillips

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Rangoon Creeper - Photo by Vicki Blythe

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Ammaron's Curly White aka ACW. . It has long thin, twisted four inch petals on nice sized clusters. The blooms looked like sweet floral scented ribbons cascading down. Cover photo by Mary Jane Fortney

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My Passion for Plumeria

Mary Jane Fortney
GCMG 2017

My name is Mary Jane Fortney and I am addicted to plumeria (*Plumeria rubra*). My story began almost 40 years ago when my husband, Bryon, and I moved to Houston, USDA Hardiness Zone 9 versus Zone 6. One of the first books I read about gardening on the Texas Gulf Coast was the *Houston Garden Book*. The plumeria chapter made me stop dead in my tracks. Oh, the inspiring garden photos! I read that the plumeria fragrance was very distinctive, and every color had a different and always pleasing aroma. A mature plumeria will produce a continuous show of color in Houston gardens and patios from May through October. I read locating plumeria in Galveston/Houston nurseries (back then…) was not easy but finding plumeria lovers was. Their devotion to this eye-appealing, spectacular tropical was contagious.

We have been to Hawaii, Belize, and Costa Rica, admiring how huge blooming plumeria trees can get planted in ground with tropical weather. Their beauty left me wanting more. Also, a couple of vacations in southern California found me bringing home a few of Jungle Jack's 'California Sunset' varieties for souvenirs.

Yes, my collection has grown to over a hundred plumeria, all in pots not larger than 10 gallons. They are all around our tropical pebble lagoon pool with double moss rock waterfalls. Because of our location near the coast and with the pool, we have created a microclimate that helps us push the limits in growing many a variety of tropicals with the plumeria.

My favorite plumeria right now (which seems to change from time to time) is 'Ammaron's Curly White' aka ACW. It has long, thin and twisting 4-inch or larger curled white petals forming nice-sized clusters. The white flowers with a touch of yellow are sweetly scented ribbons hanging down. ACW was named by Plumeria Society of America's past president, Rick Stone, after his son.

I am currently using a 9-month, slow release fertilizer, 11-11-13 ratio with enhanced micronutrients designed for plumeria. The majority of my plumeria collection is in 10-gallon black nursery pots so we apply fertilizer in early April. If the trees are not to be repotted that year, we top the fertilizer with an inch or so of soil along with an inch of fresh bark mulch. One advantage of using this slow-release fertilizer is that this is done only once a year—at the beginning of the growing season.

Unlike Texas Gulf Coast soil, plumeria are found in hot, dry conditions in poor soil on rocky limestone cliffs in their natural habitat, a reason we grow our plumeria in pots. We make sure to use fertile, well-draining cactus mix amended with perlite. During the pandemic in the summer of 2020, Bryon and I re-potted every single plumeria we had! We had a daily standing date where we would evaluate and repot at least five plumeria. Using his engineering talents, he developed a PVC pipe stake to guide any leaning trees. The PVC vertical support is painted to blend in with the foliage and when not needed, can be pulled out and reused. When repotting, the root section is removed from the base and also can be reused. Bryon has now upgraded the PVC tree support as he has found a five-point connector that will give even more stability.

When repotting, we make cuttings along the way to be shared with friends to spread the plumeria love. Propagation by cuttings taken May through July is my most successful method. Cuttings produce plants true to the parent plant in color and in leaf form.

Photo by MG Mary Jane Fortney

Mary Jane Fortney wearing plumeria necklace

Pink Pansy evokes the feeling of fragrant island breezes. Photo by MG Mary Jane Fortney.

"Plumeria can reward you with nature's beauty.."

Since plumeria are sensitive to our winters, we take them into our garage just prior to Thanksgiving. A few days prior to moving them into the garage, we trim all the leaves off, leaving a half inch or so of the leaf stem to dry and fall off on its own. That way we are not leaving a leaf scar on the plumeria stem that could leave the plumeria open to infection. We then place the pots on a carpeted section, keeping them on the dry side until spring.

Last year with an extreme cold snap in February, we had to take extra precautionary measures. Since the temperatures went so low into the teens for multiple days, my husband moved all the plumeria into the house. Then we lost power, so we lit our gas fireplace to provide at least some warmth to the plumeria. It worked, and because of these extra efforts, we didn't lose a single one! So far, 2022 has had a few cold nights, but storage in our unheated garage has been sufficient.

Starting the middle of March every year, I begin to monitor the predicted temperatures two weeks out. We push the boundaries some, determining when to move the plumeria outdoors around the pool. The Texas sun and heat can be intense where watering the plumeria on a daily basis can be crucial to their survival. Some of the pots are on a drip irrigation system and the rest are watered every day by hand.

I am a proud Texas Master Gardener, joining the Galveston County Master Gardeners a few years ago. I remember going in front of the GCMG interview board, and the final question to me was: "Being a plumeria grower yourself, how would you convince a young male, who is without extra money, to grow plumeria?" After I gathered my thoughts, I replied: "To be given a plumeria cutting, you are holding hope in your hands. From this unimpressive stick, you can nurture it into a beautiful plumeria tree. With a little care, it can reward you with nature's beauty." One of the board members rolled up his sleeves and showed me his goosebumps, he was so touched by my heartfelt emotion. As he shook my hand, he said it was quite evident I wanted to share my deep-rooted love of plumeria with others.

PVC invention by Bryon Fortney.

Plumeria keeping warm during cold months.

Propagating plumeria is a spring event.

Photo by MG Mary Jane Fortney

Did You Know the Vanilla Plant is an Orchid?

Joyce McMillan
GCMG 1994

Vanilla planifolia, commonly known as the Vanilla orchid, is an epiphyte in the Orchid plant family (Orchidaceae).

Orchidaceae is the largest and oldest family of flowering plants in the world, and while the vanilla orchid is one of three species producing an edible fruit, it is used exclusively in global market production. (*V. planifolia* makes up over 90 percent of global market vanilla flavor production, with *V. tahitensis* sourcing regional South Pacific source and *V. pompona* rare and local. https://www.mccormickscienceinstitute.com/resources/culinary-spices/herbs-spices/vanilla). Orchidaceae grows best in moist, tropical regions of the world located about 20 degrees to the north and south of the Equator. It is both an epiphyte, a plant that uses nutrients from the air, and a root-producing orchid. It is a vine and must have a support (tree post, etc.) on which to grow.

Vanilla originated in what is now Mexico. The Totonacs of Veracruz, Mexico are the first people in the world known to have cultivated vanilla beans. By the 1400s, the Aztecs began using vanilla beans to enhance the taste of chocolate. When Spanish explorer Hernan Cortes discovered the spice, he brought a large supply of plants back with him to Spain. The plants grew, produced flowers, but never any seedpods.

Why?

Vanilla beans have survived through centuries in Central America because of the Melipona bee. It is the only bee on earth that was capable of pollinating a vanilla orchid. Vanilla orchid flowers are hermaphroditic (monoecious), meaning they contain both male (anther) and female (stigma) reproductive parts and are self-fertile. Because a plant tissue in each flower called the rostellum covers the stem, the flower cannot self-pollinate. In addition, the pollen on a vanilla orchid is highly inaccessible to most pollinating insects, so a honeybee cannot access vanilla orchid pollen. The Melipona bee had evolved in a way that allowed it to find the vanilla pollen and carry it to other vanilla flowers for fertilization.

Discovery of Hand-pollination

In 1819, Edmond Albius, a 12-year old slave on the French controlled island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean, discovered how to hand-pollinate the plant, which made the production of vanilla widespread in the area. France then shipped the vanilla plants to Madagascar and the Comoros Islands, where they continue to flourish. Madagascar is the top vanilla grower today because its climate condition is perfect for growing the plant, and affordable labor makes hand-pollination possible.

Hand Pollination

Using a beveled sliver of bamboo, an agricultural worker lifts the membrane separating the anther and the stigma and then using the thumb transfers the pollinia from the anther to the stigma. The flower is thus self-pollinated, which will then produce a fruit. The vanilla flower lasts about one day, sometimes less so growers have to inspect their plantations every day for open flowers, a labor-intensive task.Workers have to spread “red vanilla” (vanilla that has been treated by special cooking) in the sun to be dried.

On March 7, 2017, Cyclone Enawo struck Madagascar, the country where the majority of the world’s vanilla is grown. This natural devastation directly impacted their production of natural vanilla.

Vanilla pods are so precious that theft has also become a major problem.

In the marketplace, 18,000 products contain vanilla flavor with prices for natural vanilla around $300 per lb.

Growing orchids Photo from Wikimedia Commons.

Photo courtesy of Natashaskitchen.com

Joyce’s greenhouse.Photo by Joyce McMillan

Joyce’s valilla bean orchid. Photo by Joyce McMillan

"There's nothing 'plain' about the Vanilla Orchid."

To produce one pound of processed vanilla, 5-7 lbs**.** of green vanilla beans are needed.

What is Pure Vanilla Extract?

Pure vanilla extract is the concentrated flavor of vanilla beans. In the United States there is a standard of identity for pure vanilla extract. It requires that the extracts be made from 35 percent alcohol, a minimum of 13.38 percent vanilla bean extractives and purified water in order to be called pure vanilla extract.

Artificial or Synthetic Vanilla

Due to the rising prices of natural vanilla, synthetic vanillin became more in demand being cheaper than natural vanilla. On the list of ingredients such as packaged cookies, it may show up as vanillin or simply artificial flavors. However and about three years ago, several companies that included Nestle and Hershey's announced that they were shifting to natural ingredients, indicating a preference for vanilla from orchid beans.

How to care for your vanilla orchid at home

The vines need a sturdy pole, post, or trellis to climb.

Provide lots of bright light but not direct sun exposure that could burn the leaves.

Remember that the orchid grows naturally in a rainforest so humidity and warmth are a must.

Water when bark substrate dries. Root rot is a problem that is caused by overwatering and poor air circulation.

Feed with an orchid fertilizer.

When your orchid flowers, if you do decide to produce fruits, use a toothpick or bamboo skewer to hand-pollinate.

Line art from Wikimedia Commons

My vanilla plant vine growing inside my greenhouse.

I've had my vanilla orchid vine for over 10 years and it bloomed for the first time last year (2021). I was ecstatic! It produced five blooms, each lasting one day only. Each day I hand pollinated each flower, unfortunately without success.

Homemade Vanilla Extract Recipe

4 whole vanilla beans. Slice or cut the beans in half.

Pour 16 oz alcohol (vodka, rum, bourbon or brandy) into a clean jar or bottle.

Shake daily for one month.

Wait 2 months.

Voila! Homemade Vanilla Extract!

Sources:

Worldclassvanilla.com, SmithsonianMag.com, Gulleygreenhouse.com, Bostonvanillabeans.com, Finedininglovers.com

American Orchid Society.com

Rudbeckia, salvia, and iris by Stacey Phillips

Rudbeckia, salvia, and iris by Stacey Phillips

Rudbeckia, salvia, and iris by tamu.edu

The beans from Wikimedia Commons

Hedychium Gingers in the Landscape

Lynn Shook
GCMG 2018

After many years of gardening, some of my favorite tropical plants are the garland flower gingers, also commonly called Hedychium gingers using their botanical genus name. Little did I know how much they would like the exposure they would be getting on the East side of my home. Purchased in the mid-1990's at one of the yearly Bulb and Plant Mart sales sponsored by the Garden Club of Houston, I have shared some with friends and recently have lifted and divided some for the MG grown plants for sale this spring.

Hedychiums belong to the ginger family Zingiberaceae. Go ahead and try to pronounce that one three times in a row quickly! Let's just stick to the genus name that is pronounced "Heh-DICK-ee-um." It is derived from the Greek *hedys*, meaning sweet, and *chion*, meaning snow, referring to the fragrance of their white flowers. They are native to lightly wooded habitats of Asia. There is 70-80 known species native to India, Southeast Asia, Madagascar, and elsewhere.

Today there are over 100 cultivars of Hedychium gingers in various colors, fragrances, and heights. They are deciduous herbaceous perennials with thick, fleshy-branched rhizomes that serve as underground storage units. The rhizomes can be very thick or as thin as a pencil, depending on the cultivar. Their "stems" are not stems in the true sense of the word, but referred to botanically as pseudostems. These pseudostems have long, succulent and interlocking leaf petioles. The leaves clasp to this pseudostem and merge directly with it, just as we see with canna lilies, curcuma, and bananas. Some species have variegated leaves, and a few have red undersides.

At the top of these pseudostems, the flowers emerge from elongated pinecone-like inflorescences during the summer and fall. The inflorescences consist of a series of overlapping green bracts. Tucked under each bract are one or more flower buds that grow out to the side of the flower bract. To really appreciate the variety of flora in this genus, one can do a Google search for "images for inflorescence of *Hedychium* gingers." The flowers come in a range of colors including shades of white, yellow, apricot, and orange. I have nicknamed the variety I have "Dreamsicle," because its colors remind me of the vanilla ice cream bars we ate growing up that had a peachy-orange colored sherbet on the outside. Some of these flowers can be intensely fragrant, similar to honeysuckle and gardenia.

For garden design, Hedychiums are often combined with other tropical plants such as Canna, Alocasia, Colocasia, and oth-

Dreamsickle Photo by Lynn Shook

Hedychium coronarium - Plant Delights

Hedychium Daniel Weeks - Plant Delights

"Flowers can be intensely fragrant, similar to honeysuckle and gardenia"

er gingers. They range from 3-6 feet tall. They need to be well watered and fed in spring and summer—keep them moist but not waterlogged. If left too dry, they will flower less. They become dormant in either very dry or very cold weather. Mine tend to bloom well into October here in Zone 9. In the cold winter months, keep them cool and dry when the leaves have started to fade and collapse. As the leaves and stems become battered and ragged, I cut mine completely back and mulch. This can be late November or December.

Propagation: The best way, in my opinion, is to lift and divide them by cutting into rhizomes during late winter/early spring. While they can be propagated by seed, the emerging plant may not bear true to the cultivar you harvested seed from. Details about propagation can be found at https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu.

Soil: Well-drained, yet moisture retentive soil is best. Hardy gingers like a rich soil amended with lots of compost, and any source nutrients as recommended by a soil test. If any nutrients are lacking, you can add these as needed.

Sun: Hedychium needs full to part sun. Some sources recommend light shade to partial shade. I find that mine do best with 5 to 6 hours of full sun in the morning, then after about 1:00 p.m. in shade the rest of the day. Some varieties may prefer more (or less) sun than others. Full sun in the morning, and filtered light such as under trees or an arbor may be ideal. Do your research before ordering and planting.

Containers: These gingers can be grown in pots as long as they are very large pots. They can quickly fill up even a large pot in one season, due to the size of the rhizomes and fast growth, and can even split a sturdy pot. I assume this is why you hardly ever see these ginger plants for sale in a retail nursery or garden center. Potted gingers require frequent and thorough watering—daily during spring and summer.

Pests and diseases: Slugs and snails can eat unfurling new leaves. In greenhouse conditions mealybugs and spider mites can be a problem. In dry hot climates you may see damage from caterpillars and grasshoppers. Treat these insects with appropriate measures. I personally have not had any major insect or disease problems with my Hedychiums over the years.

Sources:

Aggie-Horticulture.tamu.edu

Photo images and cultural information:
Courtesy of www.plantdelights.com

Hedychium coccineum Slim's Orange - Plant Delights

Hedychium Tai Golden Goddess - Plant Delights

Photo by PlantDelights.com

Hibiscus for the Gulf Coast

Bronia Michejenko
GCMG 2015

During the warm months I like to sit and read on my porch. My gaze is attracted to an exotic pink hibiscus 'Shirley Temple'. Her pink bell-shaped flowers dance and shimmer in the breeze. I catch my breath in amazement at the pleasure she brings me. The Gulf Coast provides a subtropical climate that is ideal for hibiscus. The hot humid, salty air and winds are well tolerated. We are so fortunate to have the ability to grow these exquisite plants.

Hibiscus is a genus of flowering shrubs in the mallow family Malvaceae. This family includes okra, cotton, hemp, hollyhock and Turk's cap. According to the history of hibiscus there were eight original species that originated in equatorial regions of Asia and the Pacific Islands. These eight species cross pollinated and resulted in many thousands of subspecies and hybrids that exist today.

Plant Hibiscus in a well-draining slightly acidic soil that holds moisture. Add compost to the soil. If planting in pots use a good potting mix. Hibiscus require a balance of sun, warmth and water to thrive. The plant will lose its flowers and leaves if temperatures are sustained below 50 ºF. Freezing temperatures have been tolerated by some varieties. I was surprised that many of my *rosa-sinensis* exotic Hibiscus survived the 2021 freeze. Hibiscus like lots of water during the summer months. Use a fertilizer that contains a moderate amount of nitrogen very low amounts of phosphorus and high potassium. Avoid using bloom boosting fertilizers which are high in phosphorus. Prune especially if plant is in a pot. The more branches you encourage to grow the more flowers you will have.

Pests. Hibiscus is susceptible to sap sucking insects such as spider mites, mealybugs, aphids and whitefly.

Hardy verses tropical. Hardy hibiscus is different from tropical hibiscus in several ways. Hardy hibiscus is cold tolerant, while tropical hibiscus needs a minimum temperature of 45ºF to thrive. Hardy hibiscus displays large, single flowers in red, white, lavender and pink. Tropical hibiscus flower in shades of pink, orange and yellow. Hardy hibiscus has heart-shaped, matt leaves while tropical hibiscus has darker green, glossy leaves.

Hibiscus moscheutos is a cold-hardy perennial and is suited to cooler climates. *Luna Red* is a seed propagated cultivar, that has become popular. Luna is suitable for containers and flower beds. Once established, *Hibiscus moscheutos* can tolerate a variety of environmental conditions. The hardy hibiscus is not picky about soil and grows well in both sand and clay. For optimum flowers choose a soil with good moisture retention. Add compost and worm castings. Plants need at least six hours of daily sunlight and lots of water during the summer months. Hardy hibiscus dies back during the winter months and needs trimming all the way to the ground. The plant tends to hibernate for a long period and may not appear until late May so be patient.

Sources (accessed March 2022):

https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/agent-articles/perennials/growing-hardy-hibiscus.html

https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/how-to-grow-hibiscus/ 2022

https://www.hiddenvalleyhibiscus.com/misc/history.html

http://hibiscus-malvaceae.blogspot.com/

Hardy Red Luna Hibiscus *moscheutos*. Photo by Paula Johnson

Hibiscus rosa-Sinensis: Most of the ornamental, tropical hibiscus are varieties of ***Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*** and are believed to have originated from China and India.
(Shirley Temple Hibiscus) Photo by Bronia Michejenko

"We are so fortunate to have the ability to grow these exquisite plants."

***Hibiscus schizopetalus*: This species is unique in that is has split petals and originated from Madagascar. (Chinese Lantern, Fringed hibiscus) Photo by Bronia Michejenko**

Cajun series hibiscus come in spectacular colors and blends; some are double. Cajun hibiscus does not tolerate cold and need to be brought in for the winter months. Photo by Paula Johnson

El Capitolio which originated in Cuba and is thought to be an offspring of *schizopetalus*. (Poodle or lions tail hibiscus). Photo by Bronia Michejenko

Photo by PlantDelights.com

What is a Monstera?

Pam Hunter
GCMG 2018

Monsteras are among today's most popular houseplants. The origin of the genus name is somewhat obscure, but is thought to derive from Dracontium, the Linnaeus assigned to this group of plant. *Monstera* was first found in a published work in 1763 as a revision of Linnaeus but no record is given as to why that particular name was chosen. However, the practice of naming aroids after snakes, dragons and monsters was fairly common. They are a member of the Arum plant family (Araceae).

Aroids are member of the Araceae family, and since Monstera is in that same classification they are aroids too. This is a huge plant family and many of them are very popular as houseplants, including Pothos, Philodendron, ZZ Plants (*Zamioculcas zamifolia*), Alocasias and many more. It is important to note that not all aroids are vining plants, nor are all aroids a Monstera.

Monstera deliciosa is native to Central America, and introduced in Hawaii and West Indies. It is a climbing evergreen perennial vine perhaps most noted for iconic large perforated and split leaves on thick plant stems and its long cord-like aerial roots. Instead of trailing like the Philodendron or becoming a groundcover like ivy, Monsteras climb up using their aerial roots. In the wild they typically attach themselves to trees or rocks, searching for sunlight after growing along the dark rainforest floor. Technically speaking, Monsteras are epiphytes, which is the scientific name given to the plant that grows vertically using the support of other plants.

The leaf holes are called fenestrations and they take a while to develop as they typically occur in more mature plants. Monsteras go by many names, including Swiss Cheese Plant, Hurricane Plant, Mexican Breadfruit, and – incorrectly – a Split Leaf Philodendron. These gorgeous plants start out small but can grow to be huge in both homes and in the wild.

In its native tropical habitat, it will climb somewhat impressively to 70 feet onto large trees, clothing the trunks with leaves in a one to three-feet long range. Indoor plants will more typically grow from six to eight-feet. Mature leaves of this plant are very large, glossy, deep green and distinctively cut and perforated. Juvenile leaves are small and mostly uncut. Aerial roots on the lower parts of this plant can be routed into the topsoil to help nourish the plant, and roots on the other parts of the plant can be attached to moss-like climbing poles or simply removed. Without support, Monsteras tend to grow horizontally.

Mature plants may produce arum-like flowers with a spadex to 10 inches surrounded by a white spathe. Flowers give way to an edible fruit referred to as Mexican Breadfruit and shaped like a corncob. It is said to taste like a mix of pineapple, mango and banana and while the fruit is delicious, the rest of the plant is poisonous. However, indoor plants rarely flower and produce fruit.

It is winter hardy in USDA Zones 10 through 12 and can live as a houseplant in Zone 9. It needs a peaty potting mix and should be placed in bright indoor light with no strong direct sun. It is best kept in warm and humid locations. It must be

3 Fans. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Monstera Bunch. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

"Monstera are often confused with philodendron."

watered regularly during growing season, allowing soil to dry between watering. Reduce watering from fall to late winter.

Monstera are often confused with Philodendrons or other large-leaf tropicals. So what are they? Are they Philodendrons? Accurate scientific naming of plants is derived through taxonomy, the discipline of classifying groups based on shared characteristics of plant parts. It's no wonder that people are so curious about them since they are often sold under a variety of confusing nicknames. There are nearly 500 different species of Philodendrons, and Monstera isn't one of them. While the term "Split Leaf Philodendron" might incorrectly be used interchangeably with Monstera, they are two entirely different plants. Philodendrons are also in the Araceae family, but they are in the different genus and species. This means that the two cannot cross-pollinate, and are therefore not the same plant.

While many people think they look the same, it is relatively easy to tell the difference between *M. deliciosa* and a Split Leaf Philodendron. Monstera leaves are smooth and heart-shaped, while the real Split Leaf Philodendron (*Philodendron bipinnatifidum*) has more angular, textured, almost ruffly foliage that lacks fenestrations but does have splits. Also, Philodendrons do not produce edible fruit like Monstera and tend to trail rather than climb. Like Monsteras, Philodendrons are native to the Americas and can also be found in the West Indies.

There is a variegated Monstera cultivar with white sections on the leaves. This is a little harder to care for, grows more slowly and can be difficult to purchase. In addition and unlike many variegated houseplants, the markings on the variegated Monstera do not make it any more attractive. My lack of appeal could be because the variegation is very contrasting and at first glance can make it look like someone has spilled white paint over it. If space is limited but you really want this houseplant, look out for cultivar Mini, which are the more compact varieties.

References:

Ourhouseplants.com
Exoticrainforest.com
Missouribotanicalgarden.com

Monstera Cone. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Variegated Monstera. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Bougainvillea: Namesake of French Explorer

Lisa Davis
GCMG 2018

I have recently discovered a love for both history and the story of plant collectors. You too may enjoy a history lesson related to Bougainvillea.

In November of 1729, Louis Antoine de Bougainville was born. He was a French admiral, explorer, and a contemporary of British explorer and Naval Captain James Cook. After participating in the Seven Years' War, Bougainville became the fourteenth navigator and the first Frenchman to circumnavigate the globe from 1766-1769. It was on his three-year journey around the world when the vine that bears his name was discovered in Brazil.

On an interesting note, while on a stop in Tahiti, the ship's surgeon revealed a shocking discovery. The male valet to the ship's botanist Philibert Commercon was actually a woman, Jeanne Baré and the botanist's mistress. Baré therefore became the first woman to circumnavigate the globe. How did the surgeon uncover the mystery? I wonder.

A few years later in 1777, Bougainville was captain of the *Bien Aimé*, 74-gun ship of the French Navy that played a crucial role in the French victory at the Battle of Chesapeake in the American Revolutionary War. Americans can certainly thank Louis Antoine de Bougainville for his assistance in the American Revolutionary War against the British and in his bringing the lovely Bougainvillea to our attention.

Bougainvillea is a tropical member of the Four O'clock plant family (Nyctaginaceae) and are very vigorous evergreen vines with spines. Although they are vines, they can be trained to stay bushy as a hanging basket, pot plant, a standard or espalier. Other uses include as a hedge, ground cover or cascading over a wall. They have long-lasting, colorful flower bracts appearing throughout the year but are especially plentiful in winter and spring. They have a spread of 15 to 40 feet. They are USDA hardy to Zone 9 and can be planted year-round.

Photo by MG Lisa Davis

CULTURE

Bougainvilleas grow and flower best in full sun. Flowers drop their bracts if the plants are placed in shady areas. Plant in rich, well-drained acidic soil. They can tolerate hot, dry conditions and flower best under stress. Keep the plant on the dry side and allow it to become root bound. Bougainvilleas grow vigorously and tolerate trimming well; they will need to be pruned to shape the plant or direct its growth. Space plants 36 to 60 inches apart. Bougainvilleas are heavy feeders and respond well to monthly application of half-strength water-soluble fertilizer.

BEST VARIETIES

Texas A&M Aggie Horticulture recommends the following Bougainvillea as some of the best:

'California Gold'- golden yellow

'Vicky'- gold and green variegated leaves

'Barbara Karst'- vigorous, bright red brackets, blooms very young and likes heat

'Sundown' - vigorous, good bloomer, apricot color

'Jamaica White™' - vigorous, blooms young white veined with green

'Texas Dawn' - vigorous, smaller pink brackets in huge clusters

'Double Pink' - vigorous, pink, must be cut off as double flowering types do not shed flowers in the typical fashion

'Surprise' - pink, white, bi-color brackets, easy bloomer

'Juanita Hatten' - dark pink with green leaves splattered with gold

PESTS

Bougainvillea may host occasional insects like aphid outdoors, but on the whole are not affected by pests.

PROPAGATION

Bougainvillea may be propagated by seeds or cuttings.

Sources

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/bougainvillea.html

Kobauashi, Kent et al, Bougainvillea. Cooperative Extension Services, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa, October 2007.

University of Florida, Cooperative Extension Service Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Bougainvillea ssp, October 1999.

Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, 1729-1811. https://library.princeton.edu/visual_materials/maps/websites/pacific/bougainville/bougainville.html

Tropical Quiz

Lisa Belcher
GCMG 2014

Match up these clues to lead you to the matching Tropical Plant! *Answers on page 34*

1. This must have been sent from heaven
2. This plant has its roots firmly in the ground and not seen in the sky
3. Was not shipwrecked on Gilligan's Island
4. Not in the woven fabric form
5. A very strong and emotional plant
6. Imposter!
7. Too bad you can't snuggle under this!

4. _____

1. _____

5. _____

2. _____

6. _____

3. _____

7. _____

Plant of the Month: Shell Ginger

Pam Hunter
GCMG 2018

Alpinia zerumbet, commonly known as shell ginger, is a perennial species of ginger native to East Asia. They can grow 8 to 10 feet tall and bear colorful funnel shaped flowers. They are grown as ornamentals and their leaves are used in cuisine.

Common Name(s): Shell flower, Pink porcelain lily, Variegated ginger, and Light galangal.

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8 to 10

Plant Characteristics: Fleshy rhizome

Family: Zingiberaceae

Height: 8 to 10 feet

Width: 1 to 3 feet

Bloom Information

Waxy, funnel-shaped flowers are a pearly white tinged with light pink on the outside, but inside are bright yellow with red markings.

Culture

Exposure: enjoys growing in full sun but prefers afternoon shade during harsh summers.

Soil Moisture: water regularly to keep soil surface moist, but not soggy.

Soil Description: Well draining and enriched.

Drought Tolerance: Not drought tolerant.

Tolerate Deer: Not favored by deer.

Maintenance: Low

Sources: Ref: Gardenia.net. Wisconsin Horticulture

Saffron

Joyce McMillan
GCMG 1994

Saffron is the world's most expensive spice. Its price ranges from $5,000 to $10,000 per pound.

Harvesting saffron is very labor intensive (like vanilla). One kilo (2.2 lbs) of saffron requires 250,000 purple crocus flowers and more than 600 hours of labor.

Each crocus flower provides just three stigmas (saffron stands) which must be picked gently by hand. The flower blossoms twice a year so the harvesting requires exact timing, precision, and a delicate touch. This golden spice is harvested in Spain and Italy but the world's most renown variety comes from Iran. Used extensively in Asian cuisine, saffron adds a bright yellow color to the food in which it is added.

Source: https//: Beaumont.tamu.edu

Crocus sativus **Wikimedia commons**

Iranian saffron Wikimedia Commons

Helpline on Growing Hops

Briana Eite
GCMG 2017

Question: Can I grow hops in the Galveston County area?

Answer: It depends.

A trial to grow hops was conducted at the Galveston County Discovery Garden by Galveston County Master Gardener and Rosarian John Jons. It showed minimal results.

The Hop (*Humulus lupulus*) plant is a vigorous growing vine with rhizomatous habit. If growing conditions are ideal, it can reach 10 to 20 feet in the growing season. It is a deciduous perennial that dies back to the root crown. It prefers soil that remains moist but drains well. This plant performs best in soil that has a pH between 6 and 8.

Most varieties are commercially grown in USDA zones 5 through 8, and require mild seasonal temperatures to mid 70-degrees. Our average summer temps are much warmer at 95 degrees. Hop plants produce flowers or cones that are harvested in fall. If you can replicate the growing conditions the hop plants require, a small harvest can be achieved.

In the meantime, good cultural practices would include irrigation of 1.5 inches a week, mulch to keep even moisture, some evening shade to lessen the heat and patience. Most die-back perennials with rhizomatous growth will perform better in their second year. Take care not to let the root crown dry out. It will not need as much water as it does during the growing season. However, it still needs moisture to live until spring.

Here is the link to the YouTube video by John Jons. "How to Successfully Grow Hops on the Gulf Coast."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AA3CJjbIT-WE

Jons' study on growing hops was printed in the July/August 2015 issue (#197) and the November/December 2015 issue (#198) of Gulf Coast Gardening that is available to read in archive at the Galveston County Master Gardeners website.

Hops growing. Photo by John Jons

Photo by John Jons

Photo by John Jons

Gardeners Tasks

Patricia Martin
GCMG 1998

May

• Continue planting okra now to early June. Okra has a long harvesting season, throughout August. Corn may be planted during May until mid-June while sweet potatoes may be planted May through mid-July.

• Watch for blossom end rot on tomatoes and peppers. This is a physiological disorder caused by a lack of calcium in the soil or an inability to absorb calcium. This occurs following fluctuations in soil moisture.

• Feed azaleas for the second time four to six weeks after you first fed them this year. Use an azalea fertilizer and follow label directions.

• Plant the following in shady areas of the garden—*Caladium*, *Begonia,* coleus, *Torenia,* and *Impatiens.*

• These heat-tolerant annuals may be planted: *Lantana*, celosia, *Cosmos,* purslane, and copper plant or copperleaf (*Acalypha* sp.)

• To avoid stressing your lawn grass, do not cut off more than one-third of the height of the grass.

• Replenish mulch in flower beds and around shrubs to conserve moisture and help control weeds.

• Most spring-flowering shrubs may be pruned after they bloom. Remove no more than one-third of the shrub to maintain the shape and improve air circulation. Remove dead and crossing branches.

• Watch for powdery mildew on crape myrtle, zinnia and euonymus. Remove infected leaves or stems and dispose in the trash. A fungicide may be used if the infestation is more severe. Follow directions on the product label.

June

• Pinch off the top of a tomato plant and root it or plant tomato seeds in a cool place to prepare for a fall tomato garden. Southern peas may be planted May through mid-August. Both sweet potatoes and pumpkin may be planted May through mid-July while watermelon can be planted May through July.

• Plant Joseph's coat (*Alternanthera ficoidea*), *Vinca* and *Salvia* for summer color. Perennials such as obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), *Lantana*, *Plumbago,* coneflower and *Coreopsis* will provide both summer and fall color. For additional fall color, add Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*), Mexican mint marigold (*Tagetes lucida*) and Aromatic aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*). Plant pentas in light shade for color and to attract hummingbirds.

• Water shade trees and shrubs deeply once a week during dry weather periods.

• Depending on infestation, treat lawns for white grubs now through early August. Reference Texas A&M AgriLife Extension publication *White Grubs in Texas Turfgrass* for life cycle and treatment of White grubs: https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/E211-white-grubs-in-texas-turfgrass.pdf

• Watch for chinch bugs in lawn. They begin in hot spots near sidewalks and driveways. Reference Aggie Turf publication *Chinch Bugs* for life cycle and management: https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/turfgrass-insects/chinch-bugs/.

• Control aphids and whiteflies with sharp streams of water, insecticidal soap or neem tree extract.

Coneflower. Photo by Michelle Thompson

*Lantana urticoides.*Photo by Michelle Thompson

Zinnias. Photos by Vicki Blythe

Sources

http://counties.agrilife.org/galveston/files/2021/12/GC-125 Vegetable Planting Guide 2021.pdf

http://harris.agrilife.org/files/2011/05/Veg-PlantingChart.pdf

Understanding Plant Basics: Annuals

Elayne Kouzounis
GCMG 1998

There is a gardenful of practical reasons to grow flowers: daffodils and irises to fill vases, chrysanthemums and pinks to fashion corsages, statice and strawflowers to make wreaths, nasturtiums and violets to garnish foods, bee balm and goldenrod to brew teas, marigolds and cosmos to produce dyes, lavender and lilies to generate fragrance. There are flowers for drying and pressing, flowers for curing ills, flowers for attracting bees, birds, and other wildlife, flowers for turning children into gardeners, vining flower for screening out the neighbors, and more.

While not all plants blossom—ferns are a notable example---most plants do produce flowers, including trees, woody shrubs and vines, and herbs, the omnibus word for plants with soft rather than woody stems. Flower gardeners spend most of their time with herbs, or herbaceous plants which they often group on the basis of how long they live.

Annuals are herbaceous plants that have a short life but a merry one. Bachelor's buttons, cosmos, marigolds, zinnias, and other annuals do everything in one garden season. They germinate, bloom, produce seeds, and die. All their energy is directed toward bringing forth seeds to produce the next generation before they are killed by the cold.

Annuals aren't foolproof plants, but most are easy to grow and reward their growers with colorful blooms that keep coming throughout the garden season. If you're new to gardening, begin with some of these nearly foolproof flowers.

Ageratum (*Ageratum houstonianum*)

Annual phlox (*Phlox drummondii*)

Calliopsis/plains coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*)

Cockscomb (*Celosia argentea*)

Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus, C. sulphureus*)

Impatients (*Impatiens walleriana*)

Marigolds (*Tagetes* spp.)

Moss rose (*Portulaca grandiflora*)

Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*)

Petunia (*Petunia* x *hybrida*)

Spider flower (*Cleome hassleriana*)

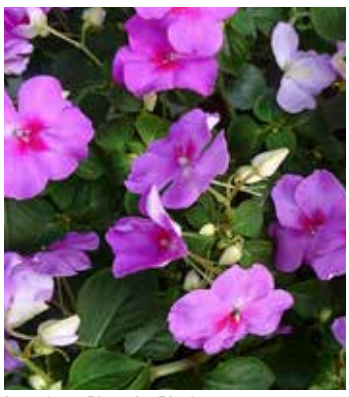
Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)

Zinnias (*Zinnia* spp.)

Annuals are useful and produce handsome flowers. They have a long bloom time, are often less expensive than perennials, and provide instant gratification. There are annuals for every inclination, subtle and gaudy hues, ground covers and climbers, big and small blooms, intricate and simple forms. There are annuals for dry and wet spots, for small and large spaces, for sun and shade. Most annuals are simple to cultivate, but there is a smattering of demanding species for gardeners seeking a challenge.

Zinnias are one of the many undemanding, sun loving annual flowers. Gardeners can choose from hundreds of brilliantly colorful cultivars if they start with seeds rather than purchase nursery-grown plants.

Cosmos. Photo by Pixabay



Impatiens. Photo by Pixabay

Zinnia. Photo by Vicki Blythe

Insects in the Garden: Grasshoppers

Kathy Maines
GCMG 2017

It looks like something has been chewing on my plants. The leaves have holes in them.

Adam Sisson, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Did you know that the most widely recognized type of insect damage to plants is chewing insect damage? Foliage or flowers may completely disappear, or there may be chewed edges or holes in the leaves.

One of the most damaging insects in our area isn't picky about what it eats, consuming vegetables and ornamentals.

What do you think it is?

That's right! It's the grasshopper. All grasshoppers have mouthparts with teeth called mandibles, and they damage plants by chewing leaves and other parts of the plant. They usually start on the outside edges of leaves. The edges will be ragged or have irregular holes. This is unlike the damage caused by caterpillars which is smoother and more regular.

Differential grasshopper, *Melanoplus differentialis*
Photo: Adam Sisson, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

There are approximately 150 species of grasshoppers in Texas. Grasshoppers are considered one of the most widespread and damaging of insect pests. Five species cause the most damage to homeowners landscapes and urban areas in Texas: the differential grasshopper, the red-legged, the migratory, the two-striped, and the Packard grasshopper.

Differential Grasshopper, *Melanoplus femurrubrum*
Photo by Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

Migratory Grasshopper, *Melanoplus sanguinipes*
Photo by Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

Two-striped Grasshopper, *Melanoplus bivittatus*
Photo by Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

Packard Grasshopper, *Melanoplus packardii*
Photo by Kansas Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

"One insect in our area isn't picky about what he eats."

Why are they worse some years than others? It's the weather. Weather conditions are the number one factor that determines grasshopper quantities. They are worse after consecutive years of hot, dry summers and warm fall. Warm, dry weather in the fall gives grasshoppers more time to feed and lay eggs. Therefore, there are more grasshoppers during droughts. On the other hand, cool wet weather slows the grasshopper growth. The fungus *Entomophaga grylli* kills many grasshoppers. Fungal spores develop inside the grasshopper and on its body, then become airborne and infect other grasshoppers. Unfortunately, grasshoppers are hardy and do not seem to be affected by cold.

Fall months are when grasshoppers deposit clusters of eggs in the soil. The eggs of different grasshopper species hatch at different times, which is why we have grasshoppers throughout the spring and summer months and even into the fall. After hatching from eggs, nymphs take 40 to 60 days to develop into an adult with wings, capable of flying.

What do grasshoppers eat? Grasshoppers are considered general feeders of vegetation and flowers and can cause complete destruction. It's when they are adults and have wings that we see them on landscape and vegetable plants in our yards.

How do you get rid of them? Use Integrated Pest Management methods from proper insect identification to cultural and mechanical control, with pesticide use as a last resort. If you do not have too many, you can always put on gloves and pick them off. They make excellent bait for fishing! Weed control helps by removing food needed by grasshoppers and discourages adults from laying eggs. You can also use barriers, pesticides, and landscape plants that are less prone to damage. Geotextile fabrics have been used as floating row covers to protect vegetables. With increased infestation, Texas A&M AgriLife Entomology indicates insecticides may be warranted. If you choose to use a pesticide, be sure to read and follow label directions. There are also plants that grasshoppers prefer more than others, listed from the following link: citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/landscape/lawns/ent-1005/.

For more information:

Field Guide to Common Texas Insects - Differential Grasshopper: texasinsects.tamu.edu/differential-grasshopper/

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomology – Grasshoppers: extensionentomology.tamu.edu/insects/grasshoppers/

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Library – Grasshoppers and Their Control: agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/library/landscaping/grasshoppers-and-their-control/

Packard Grasshopper, *Melanoplus packardii*
Photo by Kansas Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Lookalikes: Virus, Bacteria or Fungi Among Us?

Laurel Stine
Administrative Assitant
Horiculture

Some of the more difficult samples I have received are those with symptoms resembling more than one problem. Some samples seem like they might be a fungal disease, because of what looks like evidence of sporulation.

One of the more telltale evidence of sporulation is concentric rings caused by fungi:

Alternaria leaf spot on tomato. Photo: Clemson University, USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org
https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/solanaceous-early-blight

Fungi are the most commonly encountered plant diseases, responsible for 85% of all plant diseases. Therefore, odds are good that you might be looking at a fungus.

Fungal bodies are composed of string-like filaments called hyphae. Many times you can see these in and around the affected area.

Fungal hyphae on dead leaves. Photo: Jerzy Opiola; from Michigan State University *Carbon Time: Decomposers*, activity 6.2
https://carbontime.create4stem.msu.edu/sites/default/files/decomposers/handouts/6.2_Other_Decomposers_Reading_Bracket_Fungi.pdf

Spores are to fungi what seeds are to plants. Pycnidia are small, black "dots" that are formed by many fungi to produce spores. They are also known as fruiting bodies. Are they present?

Pycnidia from Grape Black Rot. Resource: Ward, N.A., Kaiser, C.A. (2012). *Plant Pathology Fact Sheet: Black Rot of Grape*. University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, PPFS-FR-S-16, 4 pp.
http://weather.uky.edu/disease/PPFS-FR-S-16.pdf

However, nature can throw us a curve because bacterial diseases and viruses can also create concentric rings.

Bacterial disease:

English Ivy with a bacterial leaf spot. Do you see the rings? Resource: Beckerman, J., Creswell, T. (2021). *Symptoms and Signs for Plant Problem Diagnosis – An Illustrated Glossary*. Purdue University Extension, BP-164-W, 65 pp.
https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-164-W.pdf

Many times, early bacterial lesions will appear "water soaked", or wet:

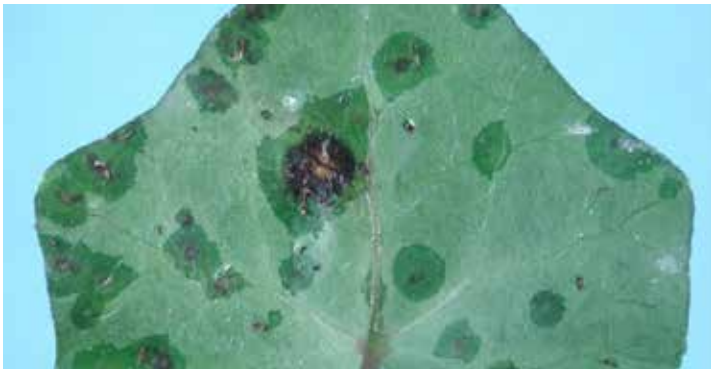


Photo: Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks
https://pnwhandbooks.org/sites/pnwhandbooks/files/plant/images/ivy-hedera-helix-bacterial-leaf-spot-stem-canker/17-2003ivy5.jpg

Lookalikes *cont'd*

Sometimes if you hold the sample up to the light it will appear somewhat translucent.

Viruses:

Hydrangea with a ringspot virus. Photo: Jack Kelly Clark; UC Statewide IPM Project, University of California.
http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/DISEASES/viruses.html

On close inspection, viruses tend to be "clean", meaning that they are not accompanied by water soaked areas or hyphae. They are intrinsic to the plant tissue itself and they look that way.

Squash plant with a virus. Photo: Johnson, L. April 27, 2018. *Virus Issues are not Uncommon.* **University of Florida UF/IFAS Blogs.**
https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/escambiaco/2018/04/27/viruses-issues-are-not-uncommon/

To throw another cause into the mix, it helps to know that plant cells can self-destruct to survive. After detecting a pathogen, plant cells can set off a chain reaction that ultimately destroys them, preventing disease from spreading. This creates another ring of different tissue on the affected area.

Make sure you have your faithful hand lens available for a close up view of the problem areas. You do have one, don't you? Here is an article to help you understand (and acquire!) them: https://extension.psu.edu/a-brief-guide-to-hand-lenses

A thought to keep in mind when acquiring affected samples is "the more the merrier". Hopefully additional plant samples will provide more clues as to what you may be dealing with.

http://plantclinic.cornell.edu/mgresourses/MGT-Basic%20Plant-Path-HO-2010.pdf

https://carbontime.create4stem.msu.edu/sites/default/files/decomposers/handouts/6.2_Other_Decomposers_Reading_Bracket_Fungi.pdf

2022 TMGA Conference

The 2022 Texas Master Gardener State Conference was virtually on May 10-11, 2022 Master Gardeners and the public attended.

The 2022 theme was 'Community Connections. A variety of speakers from around the state shared many ways to further projects and education within associations. A variety of sessions on varied horticultural topics were given. Diverse gardens found in other states were shared with all through virtual tours.

The conference offered continuing education hours for Master Gardeners including three Keynote Presentations, 24 Breakout Sessions, five Virtual Tours as well as a Bonus Session on the Volunteer Management System (VMS).

The conference also celebrated the Search for Excellence Awards and the achievements volunteers are accomplishing in education across the state.

The Galveston County Master Gardener Association was especially proud to have one of its members, Robin Collins, serving as the 2022 Texas Master Gardener Association president.

The GCMGA President Kathy Maines won second place as Outstanding Master Gardener member. The GCMGA also received first place as the State Outstanding Master Gardener Association.

Discovery Garden Update

Tom Fountain
GCMG 2008

Wow! It has been an unusual spring! A warmer than normal winter with a late season freeze turned into a cool, windy spring with below normal rainfall. This weather pattern delayed our growth season. The average temperatures continued to be a degree or two below normal. Rainfall across Texas also continued below normal, leaving the area in varying degrees of drought. This pattern is expected to continue into the summer. The extended forecast from NOAA indicates temperatures will likely be warmer than normal with rainfall continuing lower than normal. We could be in for some extreme drought conditions; however with hurricane season upon us, be prepared.

After our late season freeze, a little sunshine and warmer weather helped bring a fusion of color into the Discovery Garden as pictured (Fig. 1). The spring weather, combined with the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, brought more visitors and Master Gardeners to the garden. Also, we were able to have an in the garden plant sale. It was so much fun to have more people to visit with. You can see the smiles on Linda Steber, Patsy Jewell, Helen Mabe, and Lisa Davis as they were working that plant sale (Fig 2).

Spring was a very busy time with lots of projects going on. The gardeners tackled all the vegetable beds and got them looking good, and the orchard was mulched. Judy Anderson and Sandra Devall completed cleaning the low water use area, while the Serenity Garden was much improved by Tish Reustle and Wendy Stratton. A transformation of the herb garden took place. Briana Etie, Karen Nelson and John Meyer cleaned it out and were busy working on laying it out and planting the


1

2


3

Photos by Tom Fountain

"Actively involved gardeners make garden projects easier"

new herb bed (fig 3). Also, there was a very invasive water leak near Discovery House. Ronnie Corley and Kevin Lancon managed to locate and fix it. They are pictured (fig. 4) filling in the hole they created to fix the plumbing leak.

We also had a good reason to celebrate. One of our Master Gardeners, Ginger Benson, received a well-deserved promotion. She is now the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent for Family and Community Health. To celebrate this, Linda Barnett and the kitchen crew put together a fantastic luncheon. Pictured in (fig. 5) is Ginger Benson as she works her way around the buffet, followed by Vicki Blythe and Gene Speller, while Linda Barnett puts the finishing touches on the buffet table. It was good to see many of Master Gardeners we don't get to see often in the garden. We had the Texas Master Gardener President Robin Collins and Vice President Elisabeth Castro come by and help us celebrate with Ginger. In (fig. 6) Jan Fountain, Phoenix Rogers, and Robin Collins were lined up for the buffet. Lunch in the garden is always excellent and a nice production.

As always for me, being behind the lens and taking pictures of interesting people doing interesting things is fun. This time it was Maria Luisa Abad while she was working some strawberry beds (fig 7). I see Maria all over the garden, and she is usually busy working and always has a very happy smile.

Spring, summer, or fall our garden continues to have cleanup and fix up projects to do, along with weeding and just keeping things looking nice. So Master Gardeners, while the weather is still good, come on out and enjoy the garden, find some good company, lend a hand, and get a little exercise. Visitors from the public are welcome to come by to visit between 9 am and 11 am on our Thursday workdays. Stay safe.

Photos 1-6 by Tom Fountain

Meet a Master Gardener: TMGA President Robin Collins

Barbara Canetti
GCMG 2016

Robin Collins, Galveston County 2016 MG, is among those individuals who sets their sights on something and then goes after it with only success in mind. She is the new President of the Texas Master Gardener Association, Inc. for 2022. Robin began her presidency in December after serving as Second Vice President and followed with First Vice President which was extended due to COVID. Following her presidency, she will serve as Past President and continue serving on the Executive Committee as head of the nominating committee.

Her responsibilities as President are set out in the TGMA bylaws which include presiding at all meeting of the organization, appointing a Chair for each of the eight Standing Committees and the Special Committees as they are assembled, creating and dissolving Committees as determined by the Executive Committee, being an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee, and working with the Treasurer on the budget. When she becomes Past President, she will be over the nominating committee.

"I have learned so much about Texas Master Gardeners," Robin said. "Some local associations are very small, but the directors and representatives are dedicated to the mission of the master gardeners. However, so much of the organization relies on the person-to-person relationships and because of the pandemic those interactions have been curtailed."

Instead of quarterly meetings at the AgriLife Center in College Station, directors and officers have been meeting online in Zoom calls – some lasting several hours as the organization's bylaws were being updated and rewritten.

"My eyeballs were rolling in my head," she said. "So many details, but it had to be done."

How was Robin able to rise so quickly within the organization? Networking and meeting members from across the state, she said. In 2018 she spearheaded a committee to develop the aquaponics program in the Discovery Garden in La Marque. She sought advice from other master gardeners who had experience in growing plants in combination with raising fish. One of those she spoke with was Louie McDaniel of McLennan County, who was then an officer with TMGA. They stayed in touch and he asked her if she would be interested in getting involved in the statewide association. She followed his suggestion and jumped in. She has been busy ever since.

One of the areas she is interested in developing is a college scholarship program for horticulture, 4-H, farm-to-table studies and even chef-related curriculums. Education is close to her heart. For the past 10 years she has taught at College of the Mainland, where her focus is in graphic arts. She is also an artist. For GCMGs, Robin is responsible for the layout and design of this newsletter.

Robin was born in Dallas, and raised near Pasadena. She lives in Kemah and weekends in Galveston. She has been a gardener all her life. Her mother was a Master Gardener in the early 1980s. Robin said she wanted to join the program back then but she had her two little boys to raise – they are now 27 and 29 – so she waited until she could free up the time to participate. But meanwhile, she became an elected Kemah City Council member, a post she has held for 13 years.

As busy as she is, she still has time for her own garden. She plants veggies in raised beds in the spring, and has a kitchen garden of spices and herbs outside her door. She also tends six chickens and turkens with her partner of nine years, Brian Harris.

She looks forward to working as President at the State level.

"There are a lot of moving parts in this organization and it is a bigger challenge to run an all-volunteer group. How do you reward people who are volunteers – what can you give them? Especially if they are all brilliant people who bring so much talent to the organization," she said. "But I do see it as a positive and I look forward to the challenge."

Photo Gallery Tropicals

Bird of Paradise *(Strelitzia)* was photographed at Wayfarers Chapel in Palos Verdes, CA. Photo by Joanne Hardgrove

Hidden Ginger *(Curcuma elata)* is a beautiful early spring bloomer in my backyard. It loves sun and the tall arching foliage that follows makes a great screen or backdrop. Photo by Michelle Thompson

Bougainvillea *(Bougainvillea spectabilis)* I bought the plant at a MG sale, and it does well hanging on my front porch. The more sun exposure, the more blooms! Photo by Linda Steber

A monarch on Tropical Milkweed *(Asclepias curassavica)* in my garden plot at the San Jacinto Community Garden in Galveston. Photo by Vicki Blythe

Passion Flower *(Passiflora incarnata)* is used by Gulf and Variegated Fritillaries, Zebra Heliconians, and Julia Heliconians as caterpillar food. Photo by Stacey Phillips

Pineapple Lilies *(Eucomis)* are miniature floral representations of the tropical fruit. Only 12 to 15 inches tall, they have large flowerheads resembling tiny pineapples flanked with green bracts. Photo by Pam Hunter.

Welcome to the new Photo Gallery.

Send in a photo to be considered for this page. Next issue (July/August) the topic is **Travel Plants** (the photos you have taken of memorable plants when you have traveled). **Send one photo for the PHOTO GALLERY by June 1** to kbgephart@comcast.net.

Please send photo in a size that will reproduce sharply and give name and scientific name of plant(s) shown along with where you took the photo and any information you would like (Maximum 30 words) and your name as you want it in the PHOTO BY.

Seasonal Bites: Simply Delicious!

Sandra Gervais
GCMG 2011

Now it's time to think of the important things in life again——food, fun and family. Things are looking up health-wise for all and we've been separated much too long.

We can look more hopefully towards the end of school and the summer holidays that will soon be here. So, what can we make for a family get together at any time or for an impromptu meal with friends that is easy and tasty? One of the first things that come to mind is a savory strata, first cousin to a frittata. A strata is more of a soufflé or puffed-up casserole. It is good hot or cold and uses whatever vegetables are available. And then how about something yummy for dessert? A simple citrusy cake fits the bill. To keep things simple, both recipes are baked at the same temperature.

Any Time Strata Preheat Oven to 350°

6-8 ounces of cooked bacon or ham, chopped
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 cup chopped or cherry tomatoes
2 cups of assorted vegetables
(squash, mushrooms, spinach, broccoli, etc.)
6 ounces of day-old or stale bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
(sourdough works well)
6 eggs
¾ - 1 cup milk of milk, depending on vegetables used
½ - teaspoon each salt and pepper (add more to taste)
1 cup shredded or grated cheese
(Cheddar, Gruyere, Monterrey Jack all work)

Directions
Grease a 3-quart baking dish and set aside.
Using 1 tablespoon of oil or bacon drippings, sauté onions until soft and translucent. Add tomatoes. Cook on medium until tomatoes are soft and onions start to caramelize. Add rest of vegetables and cook until soft or wilted. Remove from heat and mix in bacon or ham.
Spread about half of the bread cubes in the buttered baking dish.
Layer on half of the vegetables and then half of the cheese.
Add last half of bread cubes. Top with rest of vegetable mixture and cheese. Whisk together the eggs, 3/4 cup of milk, salt and pepper.
Pour evenly over the top. (If it looks really dry, carefully pour over another 1/4 cup of milk.) Sprinkle additional cheese over top.
Cover with foil and refrigerate for 1 hour or overnight so that flavors can meld. Remove from fridge at least 30 minutes before baking so it can get to room temperature. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes until lightly browned on top.

Orange Pound Cake Preheat Oven to 350°

1 cup butter, softened
2 cups sugar
6 eggs
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon orange extract
3 tablespoon orange juice
1 tablespoon lemon juice
Zest of 2 orange

Directions
Cream butter and sugar together.
Add eggs, one at a time and beat well after each.
Gently beat in rest of ingredients.
Bake in greased and floured tube pan for 45 minutes or until tester comes out clean.

If desired, pour glaze given below over the warm cake.

Orange Glaze
2 cups confectioners' sugar
4 tablespoons orange juice
1/2 teaspoons orange extract

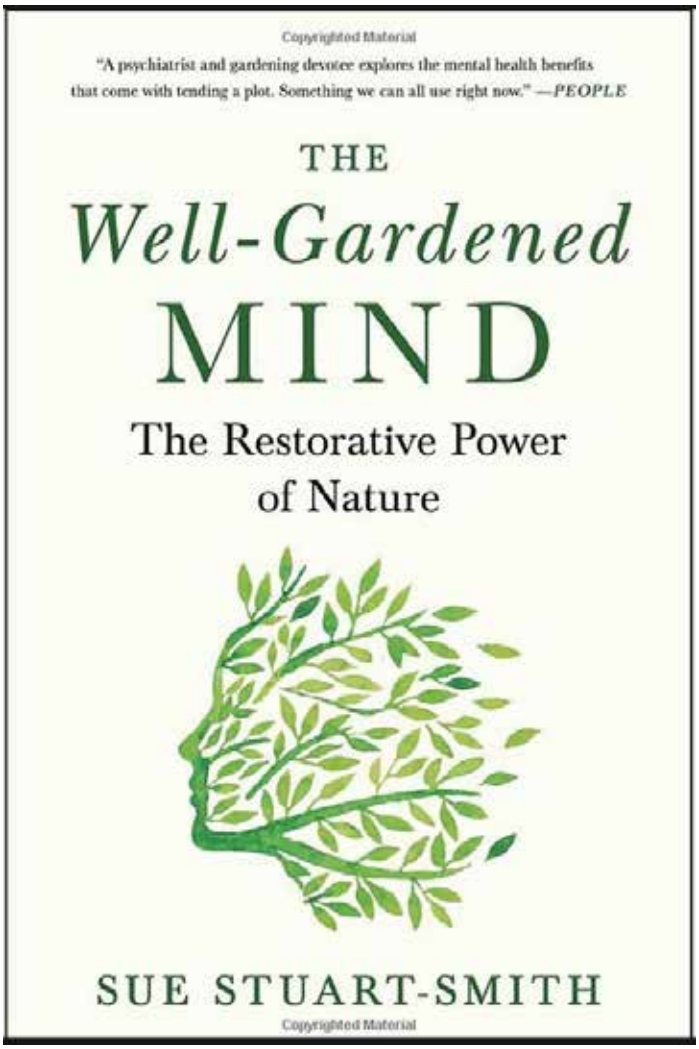
Mix until smooth.
If too stiff, add orange juice by tablespoons.
Spoon over warm cake.
Note: Can add orange zest if desired.

Book Review

A Well-Gardened Mind by Sue Stuart-Smith

Lisa Belcher
GCMG 2014

The Green Thumb Book Club began our new year reading a very different type of gardening book. In this book, the author emphasizes the way in which gardening, in all its wonderful ways, can be proven to be a positive impact on our minds, our bodies, our relationships, and the world around us. The book's main theory is a very simple one: nature and gardens are vital to our overall health. Stuart-Smith, a psychiatrist and psychotherapist, begins with the declined state of our mental well-being and ecology. Then through examining numerous examples of documented stories, shows us in simple words what has been in front of us our entire life but at times we have yet to see it; in order to thrive and relish our lives, we must become one in nature and must expand that relationship in order to blossom and grow ourselves. I know that is a lot to think of in one sentence, but as you read the book you will reexamine and reaffirm not only why we garden, but how vital gardening and nature is to our very being. (I told you this isn't your average gardening "how to" book).



Stuart-Smith describes how gardening and its practices have had a beneficial and life changing impact in some very unique examples. There is a section on prisoners and how tending a little plant in a small area of the prison greenhouse gave them hope and a new pathway to turning their mental health from one of desolation and despair to hope and calmness. One prisoner shared how being outside, feeling sunlight and touching the soil helped calm him and reminds us that even the inexperienced gardeners can gain further self-confidence, self-love, self-care after spending a few minutes with their hands dug deep in a bit of warm soil.

A fascinating chapter dealt with patients at a spinal cord rehabilitation facility, a place that was built and tailored for those that have been dealt the harsh reality of ever walking or sitting again. These gardens were designed at eye level for those laying prone in a bed or sitting in a wheelchair and describes the impact of flowers and the color green can cause both happiness and a soothing sense of comfort.

The author reminds the reader that even the chores like weeding and watering have their unique joys: "watering is calming and strangely, when it is finished, you end up feeling refreshed, like the plants themselves." Each of us all can fully understand and embrace Stuart-Smith's thoughts on her own garden: "…is far more than just a much-loved physical space. It is also a mental space, one that "gives you quiet, so you can hear your thoughts."

While we work with our hand in our gardens and beds, whether weeding, clipping or planting, we can open our minds to work through our problems, feelings and issues much easier when we are one with nature. Our brain is like a garden; we need to weed it prune it and times to fertilize it. By tending our plants or vegetables we are, in a way, gardening our inner space. Perhaps, after a while a garden is then part of our own sense of identity; a place to escape when life and relationships are hard.

2022 Master Gardener Recertification Hours

Date	Name of Program	Speaker	MG CEUs
1/8/2022	Wedge Grafting	Hazel Lampton, Herman Auer	2.50
1/11/2022	MGA Jan. Meeting - Looking Ahead in 2022	Kathy Maines, Stephen B.	1.00
1/13/2022	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Pollinator Garden	Sue Bain	0.25
1/15/2022	Planting Fruit Trees	Herman Auer	2.00
1/15/2022	Fruit Tree Selections	Robert Marshall	2.00
1/22/2022	Growing Great Tomatoes, Part 2 of 3	Ira Gervais	2.50
1/22/2022	Successful Spring Vegetable Gardening	Kevin Lancon	2.00
1/29/2022	Growing Peaches in Galveston County	Herman Auer	2.00
1/29/2022	Garden Bulbs for Galveston County	Lisa Davis, Fran Brockington	2.00
2/5/2022	Growing Irish Potatoes	Kevin Lancon	2.00
2/5/2022	Growing Avocados	Hazel Lampton	2.00
2/8/2022	MGA Feb. Meeting - *Citrus Problems in Texas*	Janis Teas	1.00
2/10/2022	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Pergola	Pam Hunter	0.25
3/3/2022	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Louisiana Irises	Monica Martens	0.25
3/8/2022	MGA Mar. Meeting - *The Native Plant Conundrum*	Stephen Brueggerhoff	1.00
3/12/2022	Growing Great Tomatoes, Part 3 of 3	Ira Gervais	2.50
3/19/2022	Cucurbits - The Squash & Cucumber Family	Kevin Lancon	2.50
3/19/2022	Successful Container Gardening	Karolyn Gephart, Kaye Corey	2.00
3/26/2022	Irises for the Gulf Coast Garden	Monica Martens	1.50
3/26/2022	Rainwater Harvesting	Nat Gruesen	1.00
2022 Recertification Hours for MGs		**Total CEUs (Hours)**	**32.25**

Last Updated April 6, 2022

Reminder: In order to maintain your status as a certified Texas Master Gardener, each year you must complete a minimum of 6 hours continuing education, as well as 12 service hours. Additionally, those hours must be reported through the online Volunteer Management System or other means.

May 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

SUMMER PRUNING OF FRUIT TREES
Saturday, May 28, 2022 / 9 – 11:30 am

Summer pruning of fruit trees is a must to maintain tree health and promote next year's production. Join Galveston County Master Gardener Robert Marshall and Extension Horticulture Agent Stephen Brueggerhoff to learn best methods for pruning peach, pear and plum. Included is a review of fruit tree species' growth and habit, open center versus central leader pruning, and general maintenance tips. A portion of the program is presented indoors at 4102-B Main Street (FM 519), La Marque, the remaining program will be a walk down to the Discovery Garden orchard in Carbide Park for hands-on pruning demonstrations. ***Note: Registration is limited to 30 people***

Register here: https://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/

"GROWING STRAWBERRIES": GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ROBERT MARSHALL
Saturday, June 4, 2022 / 9 – 11:00 am

Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main Street (Hwy 519), La Marque 77568. Free.

To pre-register and for additional information, go to https://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/

"Plumeria Propagation": with Galveston County Master Gardener Loretta Osteen presenting
Saturday, June 4, 2022 / 1-3 pm, in the Discovery Garden in Carbide

Park, 4102 Main Street (Hwy 519), La Marque 77568. Free. NOTE: Registration limited to 12 people; you must pre-register to attend.

To pre-register and for additional information: https://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/

"SIZZLING SUMMER SALE" ONLINE SALE
12 Noon, Friday, June 17 until 12 Noon, Saturday June 18

Browse online beginning June 10. Curbside pick-ups will be scheduled for June 24.

Visit the Galveston County Master Gardener online store for more details: https://store.galvestonmg.org

GCMG's to Celebrate 40th Anniversary

Kathy Maines
GCMG 2017

GCMGS - Save the Date
The evening of Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Where
The Galveston home of Master Gardener Mikey Isbell

Why?
We have lots to acknowledge and celebrate!

The Galveston County Master Gardener program celebrates its 40th year of operation in 2022, being one of the first three counties in Texas to initiate the program. Dr. George Meador, County Extension Agent, started the first Master Gardener class in 1982 and served as Master Gardener Program Coordinator until 1988. Upon his retirement. Dr. William M. Johnson served as our Master Gardener Program Coordinator from 1989 until 2021 and Stephen Brueggerhoff from 2021 to the present.

Now, 40 years later, hundreds have had the exceptional experience of taking the Master Gardener Course. A dedicated group of volunteers has emerged to make significant contributions to our communities. Master Gardener Jerlee Owens was in that very first class. Other founding members include Herman Auer and Helen Mabe.

Galveston County Master Gardeners who have 25 or more years of membership in 2022

40 years (1982)	Jerlee Owens
39 years (1983)	Herman Auer
35 years (1987)	Velda and Terry Cuclis
33 years (1989)	Ann Lyon
32 years (1990)	Doris Heard
31 years (1991)	Patsy Jewel
	Linda Steber
30 years (1992)	Laura Bellmore
	Mikey Isbell
	Clarence Paul
28 years (1994)	Joyce McMillan
27 years (1995)	Philip Fox
26 years (1996)	James Edwards
	Julie Massey
	Donna Ward
25 years (1997)	Karen Geary
	Gene Speller

30 Galveston County Master Gardeners who are celebrating 2021 Texas Master Gardener Association Milestone years:

30 years	Patsy Jewell
	Linda Steber
25 years	Jim Edwards
	Julie Massey
	Donna Ward
20 years	Janice Brick
	Kaye Corey
	Trish McDaniel
	Charles Myers
	Lester Wygrys
15 years	Anne Baugh
	Keith Boyston
	Julie Moncur
	Amy Lynn Williams

We will also receive our Texas Master Gardener Association awards from the TMGA President, Robin Collins (GCMGA class of 2016).

Awards submitted

Project -
Discovery House Reimagined

Educational Program - Third Place
A Passion for Plumeria

Written Education - First Place
GCMGA Online Store Plant Education

Research - First Place
2021 Paste Tomato Trials

Outstanding Individual MG - Second Place
Kathy Maines

Outstanding Association - First Place
Galveston County Master Gardener Association

This is an evening to honor all Galveston County Master Gardeners. Please put the date on your calendar and come celebrate.

Galveston County Master Gardener Bulletin Board

Libbie's Place Beautification Bunch

meets on the second Friday of each month from 8 to 11 am.

The volunteers can come any time after 8 am and stay as long as they like. They need to bring a water bottle and hand tools. The area is a beautiful handicapped accessible garden for the clients of Libbie's Place to enjoy. We trim trees and weed just like we do at home to keep the area looking beautiful. If you are unfamiliar with Libbie's Place you can read about it here:
https://www.moody.org/libbie-s-place-senior-day

Libbie's Place Green Thumb Club meets every Friday, except the 2nd Friday of the month, when the Beautification Bunch meets, from 10 to 11 am. We meet outside in the garden with the Libbie's Place clients.

Libbie's Place is located at
5402 Avenue U, Galveston, Texas 77551

There is plenty of parking next door at Moody Methodist Church.
The side gate into the garden
(to the left of Libbie's front door) will be open for us.

Looking forward to seeing you all there when possible.

Can YOU identify this?
This unusual root was found in the front yard of a home in League City by the new owners who believe it was in an area of a former plant bed. Can you identify this root? Send your response to kbgephart@comcast.net. The solution(s) to this mystery will be shared in the July/August issue.

Roxanne Rosson (shown) and Mary Leonard invite all to get some volunteer hours and have fun at Libbies Place in Galveston. For more information, contact Mary at leonardmc@aol.com. Photo by Mary Leonard.

Herbs were discussed at Discovery House presentation by Briana Etie and Karen Nelson. Photo by Pam Hunter.

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Galveston County

Last Word: Canna Delight

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

Canna lilies are plants that I have seen growing in southern home gardens throughout my lifetime, popularized as easy to grow and maintain. I am delighted to share a brief review to a plant commonly used in the landscape, offering a few varieties to consider when adding tropical flair to your garden.

Canna lily is a plant of the New World, with ten species from tropical and sub-tropical south to Central America and naturalized in temperate areas of the globe. They are taxonomically placed within a higher order of plants (Zingiberales) that include ginger, banana, heliconia and bird-of-paradise. Cannas are hardy from USDA Zones 8 – 11, grow best in full sun planted in evenly moist, rich, and well-draining soils. The plant produces clusters of rhizomes that give rise from 4 to 6-feet tall, broad to slender paddle-shaped leaves that open by unfurling and providing a tropical look to any landscape setting. They are sensitive to frost, and foliage may turn black and unsightly in cooler winter temps. The foliage of in-ground plants should be cut back in winter with an addition of mulch over the planted area. Severe winter temps may necessitate digging clustered rhizomes out of the ground, storing in a garage in containers or in a bag with lightly dampened peat moss to avoid desiccation.

Common diseases include fungal pathogen canna rust, appearing as small orange speckles that cover the leaf surface, as well as viruses specific to canna plants. Foliage of infected plants show a range of symptoms including yellow striations and vein necrosis. Treatment for both fungal and viral infection includes disposal of affected vegetation. While foliage may be nibbled by a variety of critters such as rabbits, slugs and snails, an insect that can cause severe foliar damage is the caterpillar of moth species canna leaf-roller. The moth lays eggs in developing vegetation, the caterpillar creates a webbing to keep the leaf from unfurling, feeds and pupates to continue the cycle. Control includes hand-picking the caterpillars or cutting off the tip of the rolled leaf and applying an insecticide containing Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*), a biological ingredient specific to butterfly and moth species.

Cannas are traditionally cultivated as a food plant in South America, starchy rhizomes used from species and cultivars attributed to the agricultural group. Canna plants were introduced to Europe from natural resource exploration and colonization efforts, extensively hybridized during the European Victorian Era in France, Italy, and Germany toward developing smaller stature plants, cold hardiness, enhanced flower, and variegated foliage color. Contemporary breeding programs focus on traditional characteristics mentioned as well as disease resistance and plant vigor. All cannas are categorized in their own plant family (Cannaceae) due to unique flowers, consisting of three to four brightly colored asymmetrical and flexible petal-like structures with buds clasped long and emerging from the tip of long slender stalks, appearing to light up the landscape like a torch when in bloom. Examples include modern hybrids like the Cannova® series standing at 4-feet tall with flowers from mango to orange and red, Toucan® series at attention to 4-feet including 'Scarlet' with burgundy-colored leaves sporting crimson-red flowers, and 'Yellow' offering deep pastel yellow flowers with red freckles on the petals, and the Tropicanna® series offering striking foliar variegation. Some canna hybrids are sterile, will not produce seed and are vegetative propagated or divided for commercial production. While there are more varieties commercially available that I can mention, cultivated and registered plants may be subject to propagation restrictions.

I encourage you to continue a southern garden tradition and include canna lily in your garden, adding a dramatic backdrop and presenting bold flower and foliage colors that draw the eye to the broader landscape or provide an intimate focus. Cheers to you, and I'll see you in the garden.

Yellow Canna

Orange Canna

Photos by Stephen Brueggerhoff

Galveston County Monthly Meetings

Judy Anderson GCMG 2012

May

Trish and Mike McDaniel hosted the Galveston County Master Gardeners at their Denver Court home in historic Galveston for the May backyard meeting. Master Gardeners joined them in their newly enhanced gardens for an evening of good food and socializing. Trish is a 21 year Master Gardener. Trish has been doing backyard updates like many people during the pandemic and the beautiful gardens will blooming. A large crowd attended and the evening potluck was bountiful. While at the event, the MG Conference underway virtually had its Awards program and GCMGs found out that they had won awards including First Place Outstanding Organization!

June

The Galveston County Master Gardeners will be hosting the Annual Recognition for the Master Gardeners in June. This summer celebration will be at the home of Mikey Isbell, a Master Gardener since 1992; she has been hosting the June meeting for decades. The event will begin a little later to allow the day to cool before the outdoor program. The social will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program before dinner. Please bring a potluck dish to share with the evening meal.

Galveston County Master Gardeners will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary at this event. Awards will be given for milestone years as well as to those who have participated in the program for 25 years or more. State President (and GCMG) Robin Collins will also be presenting State Award news to the group. There is much to celebrate and all GCMGs are invited to attend.

2022 GCMG Monthly Meetings

May
Backyard Meeting hosted by MG Trish McDaniel

June
MG Recognition hosted by Mikey Isbell

July
GCMG Volunteer Opportunities,
Extension Office

August - TBA

September
Backyard Meeting hosted by MG Pam Hunter

October
The Great Chicken Coop Tour

November
Annual Meeting

December
Holiday Party hosted by MG Mikey Isbell

Answers to Quiz on page 15

1 C *Brugmansia*- ANGEL Trumpet
2 G *Strelitzia reginae*- BIRD of Paradise
3 E *Alpinia purpurata*- Red GINGER
4 B *Acalypha hispida*- CHENILLE plant
5 D *Passiflora caerulea*- PASSION flower
6 A *Heliconia rostrata*- FALSE Bird of Paradise
7 F *Gaillardia aristata*- BLANKET flower

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