

THE FALL / VEGETABLE ISSUE

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

Popularity of Home Gardening



Kathy Maines

Kathy is holding Sapphire, a hen who lives in the San Jacinto Community Garden in Galveston. (See story on page 14)

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. – Audrey Hepburn

According to TAMU AgriLife Extension, one of every three families does some type of home gardening, ... with most gardens located in urban areas. (<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/texas-home-vegetable-gardening-guide/>) One of the best things about growing vegetables is that everyone can grow something they can eat. In 2019, each person in the United States ate 49.4 pounds of fresh potatoes (according to USDA). That's a lot of potatoes!

What vegetables do you like to grow? In our Discovery Garden community beds, we grow broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, onions, potatoes, peppers, squash, just to name a few. This year, we added corn and garlic. As a child I remember running through the corn field with my brother and sister. We laughed the entire time and then our bared arms and legs itched like crazy once we stopped running.

Vegetables will grow directly in the ground, in raised beds and pots, even hanging baskets. For those needing more space, you can get a vegetable bed at a nearby community garden. Community gardens are becoming increasingly popular. According to soils.com, "Community gardens are where the residents of a community are empowered to design, build, and maintain spaces in the community. They can be located at a school, hospital, or in a neighborhood." In this issue of Gulf Coast Gardening, you will not only see articles about vegetables, but you will see what goes on at a community garden. For those who are not already growing vegetables, I hope this issue encourages you to do so.

Kathy Maines

Fall Planting Has Begun



Karolyn Gephart

It's Fall. ... And we are waiting for a norther! Until then we can at least show our fall colors. Check out the Photo Gallery for some great hues that showcase the season. Fall planting in Galveston County is underway. The introduction to this Vegetable Issue by Briana Etie lists great varieties of fall vegetables that love to grow in Galveston County. Maybe this year you can try potatoes or have a vegetable garden in your kitchen growing...Microgreens! Hedy Wolpa gives all the How To Do This in her article in this issue. We can't have a fall issue without mentioning Chrysanthemums and Elayne Kouzounis helps us there. Even cauliflower will offer fall color. Sandy McBride will tell you which varieties to plant.

Vegetable beds are fun for kids and great for adults who still love to see it all happen and then present the bounty cooked for their families.

Check out the upcoming events. Save the

date October 8, 2022 for the Fall Festival presented by the Galveston County Master Gardeners from 9 am to 2 pm at 4102-B Main Street (FM 519) in La Marque. GCMGs will be offering tours of the Discovery Garden, garden talks as well as a HUGE plant sale.

Fall Fun ahead for all!

Karolyn Gephart



LaSoda and Yukon Gold potatoes grown and photographed by Debbie Brizendine



Photo by MG Briana Etie

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Fall is Great for Vegetable Gardens



Briana Etie
GCMG 2017

Gardening can be a year-round activity. Gardeners develop an appreciation and desire for fresh nutritious vegetables. The best and most rewarding way to obtain fresh vegetables is to grow them at home. Some of the best quality garden vegetables are harvested during the fall season, a time of year when sunny days are followed by cool humid nights. The following are tips to help you garden successfully in the fall.

Site Selection

If you don't already have a garden site, choose one with at least six hours of sun exposure. Take into consideration surrounding plant heights and the sun positions as it rises and sets, and adjust your design to keep root crops like carrots, beets and turnips in full sun. The leafy crops can thrive in some shade. If you are limited by space or suitable area, consider container gardening. Visit the following link for a complete guide to container gardening: <https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/vegetable-gardening-in-containers/>.

Soil Preparation

Successful fall gardening begins with soil preparation. A sandy loam soil with organic matter can give your garden drainage and nutrients necessary for a healthy garden. Soil pH of 6 to 7 is ideal for nutrients to be available. This range is favorable for microbial activities that contribute to the availability of nitrogen, sulfur, and phosphorus in soils. It can take

several seasons to build an optimum soil with beneficial soil organisms. If you have mature beds add finished compost and fertilizer every season. Compost that is not finished can steal available nitrogen from your plants. Applying ammonium sulfate (21-0-0), 1 pound per 100 square feet (10 feet x 10 feet) is advised.

In general, soil temperatures are still warm, and plant roots do not have to wait for the soil to warm up like they do in the spring. The roots grow comfortably and establish quickly. Root vegetables flourish in well-drained, loose soil where their roots can easily expand. Root crops generally grow well in sandy loam and peat soils.

A Garden Plan

Strategic placement of plants and positioning for sun exposure should be the first thought. Group vegetables that will mature at the same time. Crop rotation is important. Avoid planting different Nightshade Plant Family (Solanaceae) vegetables together and in the same area. Nightshade plants like tomatoes, peppers and eggplant are prone to similar diseases and pests like nematodes.

Seeds or Transplants

Some crops are best planted with direct sow methods. Generally, root crops and leafy greens are the best seeds to start directly in the garden such as beets, carrots, radishes, peas, squash, and greens. As a rule, a seed planting depth is twice the size of the seed.



Beau in the garden



Fall Garden



Carrots

“Choose plants with less than 60 days to mature”

Fall crops of tomatoes and peppers generally do better when started from transplants. These crops can take longer for maturity, and starting seeds late summer can produce a transplant.

Choose plants with less than 60 days to mature for a fall crop. For our area, the National Weather Service ranges December 1st thru December 15th for the average first frost dates. Our tomato expert Ira Gervais’ suggest we plant our tomatoes no later than September 15th. This gives us 77 days to grow mature tomatoes. Determinate varieties for fall are a good choice; the plants are bred to stop growing usually somewhere around 3 to 4-feet tall. When flowers blossom at the tips of the branches, the plant has reached its full height. The fruit of a determinate tomato plant ripens all at once. If you like a large tomato, ‘New Big Dwarf’ is an heirloom determinate under 60 days to mature. It was one of the first varieties to set fruit in Galveston County Master Gardener Tomato Trials in 2017. Early Doll is a great saladette type and matures in 55 days. *Varieties that perform well in Galveston County*

Beets - Detroit Dark Red, Ruby Queen, Green Top Bunching, Pacemaker II

Broccoli - Bonanza, Early Dividend, Green Comet, Packman, Premium Crop,

Cabbage - Early Dutch, Early Jersey Wakefield, Ruby Perfection

Chinese Cabbage - Brisk Green

Carrots - Cosmic Purple, Nantes Half Long, Red Core Chantenay, Scarlet Nantes, Sweet Rocket

Cauliflower - Alverda, Brocoverde, Majestic, Snow Crown, Snowball Y Improved, Violet Queen

Cucumbers, Pickling - Calypso, Carolina, Little Leaf, National, Patio Pik (Dwarf), SMR-58,

Cucumber, Slicing - Burpless, Cucino, Cypress Hybrid, Dasher II, Diva, Garden Oasis, Poinsett 76, Slice Master, Spacemaster, Straight Eight, Suvo, Sweet Slice

Collards - Blue Max, Champion, Flash, Georgia Southern

Garlic – Elephant, Mexican Purple; plant tender green onions and garlic in the fall and harvest in February

Joi Choi, Pac Choi

Kale - Dwarf Blue Curled Scotch, Dwarf Blue Curled Vates, Nero di Toscana, Rebor, Red Russian

Kohlrabi - Early White Vienna 55 Grand Duke 45 Purple Danube

Lettuce, Butterhead/Bibb – Buttercrunch, Esmeralda, Summer Bibb,

Lettuce, Looseleaf - Black Seeded Simpson, Brunia Red, Oakleaf, Red Fire, Red Sails, Redina, Ruby Red, Salad Bowl, Romaine Freckles, Little Caesar, Plato II

Mustard - Florida Broadleaf, Savanna, Southern Giant Curled

Onion seeds (Short Day) Early Grano 502, Eclipse, Granex Red Burgandy, Yellow TX Supersweet 1015

Peas, English – Alaska, Cleo, Laxton, Little Marvel, Premium Gem, Sugar Bon, Sugar Snap, Wando,

Peas, Snap - Cascadia, Sugar Ann, Sugar Bon, Super Sugar

Radish - Black Spanish, Champion, Cherry Belle, Early Scarlet Globe, Easter Egg, French Breakfast,

Spinach – Bloomsdale, Early hybrid, Melody, Space,

Swiss Chard - Bright Lights, Bright Yellow, Fordhook Giant, Lucullus, Orange Fantasia, Rhubarb Red

Tomatoes, Large 12 oz - Bush Goliath, Better Bush

Tomatoes, Medium 4-11 oz – Bush Early Girl, First Lady, Heat-wave

Tomatoes, Paste - Lil Napoli, 42 Days

Tomatoes, Small 3 oz - Small Fry, Sun Gold, Fourth of July

Turnips, Roots - Royal Globe, White Lady,

Turnips, Roots & Greens - Just Right, Purple Top White Globe, Shogoin, Tokyo Cross

Fall is for herbs

Culinary herbs are used to enhance the flavor of our foods. Some herbs can be established by planting the seed directly in the garden.

Cilantro will sprout faster if you crack open the seeds before scattering them in the garden. Plant them in succession to have fresh harvests during its growing season. Basil planted again in fall will last until temperatures dip to 40-F.

Annual herbs like basil, arugula and cilantro can be planted within our vegetable beds and can be beneficial as well. Their blooms can attract pollinators and improve pollination.

Planting perennial herbs in the fall can allow the roots to establish with less stress.

Plant perennial herbs at the side of the garden or designated bed where they won't

Fall is Great for Vegetable Gardens *cont'd*

interfere with next year's soil preparation.

Always plant mint in a pot. This herb spreads through rhizomes and shoots. It grows best as a patio plant. If it dies down during the summer, don't let it dry out. It will return in cooler weather. Lemon Balm behaves the same way. Protect the rhizomes.

A rosemary plant older than three years is best used for skewers or firewood.

Florence Fennel will form a bulb between February and April if planted in fall.

When planting herbs together, group those with similar watering needs. Rosemary, sage, savory, and thyme perform best if you allow the first inch of soil to dry before watering again.

Plant parsley, oregano, fennel, marjoram, chives, lemon balm and salad burnet near each other. They will perform better when soil is not allowed to dry out. Best cultural practices give all herbs soil that drains well.

I like growing the herbs closer to the kitchen. Design a Potager Garden and enjoy fresh vegetable and herbs and a cooler season to garden. Enjoy Fall y'all!

Sources:

Texas A&M Agrilife

National Weather Service

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Mustard Greens



Peas Growing



Fall Tomatoes



Vegetable Garden Planting Guide

for Galveston County

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GC-125
12-21

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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Microgreens - Healthful and Delicious



Hedy Wolpa
GCMG 2018

There are so many reasons to enjoy microgreens — they're easy to grow, they add nutrients to your diet, and they spike your food with flavor, texture, and color. Within just a few days of planting seeds, your microgreens are ready to harvest!

Microgreens are the seedlings of edible plants that are picked and eaten within two weeks of planting, or soon after they germinate. These baby plants are packed with nutrients, including vitamins, antioxidants, and minerals that are condensed in the tiny plant structures.

Microgreens should be eaten in their raw state, freshly picked, to get maximum nutrition perks. They are rich in vitamins C and E, and help our bodies make vitamin A. Microgreens are high in potassium, iron, zinc, magnesium, copper, and carotenoids.

[Bhimu Patil](#), Ph.D., a professor of horticulture and director of the Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center at Texas A&M University, agrees that microgreens may potentially have higher levels of nutrients than mature vegetables. But he says more studies are needed to compare the two side by side. “This is a very good start, but there can be a lot of variation in nutrients depending on where you grow it, when you harvest, and the soil medium,” Patil said.

There are many varieties of microgreens, of course, since all edible veggie plants begin as tiny seedlings. Their flavors can be sweet, peppery, lemony, earthy, or bitter. Nutrition benefits vary from plant to plant. Broccoli contains high amounts of sulforaphane, which may reduce inflammation. Cilantro, daikon radish, and red cabbage microgreens are rich in vitamins C, K, E, carotenoids, and lutein.

You will find microgreens in any quality grocery store or farm market. And you'll also see sprouts and baby greens at a grocery. These are different from microgreens in several important ways. Sprouts are even younger than microgreens, and are harvested as simply stems, before they have any leaves at all. Sprouts are often grown only in water. Baby greens have stems and leaves and are just smaller versions of an adult leafy green plant. The leaves are removed from the plant and packaged as leaves, and we usually prepare salads with them; baby greens typically look and taste like the mature leafy plant. Microgreens are harvested somewhere between sprouts and baby greens. They have stems as well as their first set of leaves. Microgreens are usually grown in soil and are watered until they have their first leaves, then they're harvested to be enjoyed in a multitude of diverse ways.

Growing Microgreens

Microgreens are most often grown in soil in trays indoors, in a sunny location. A quality soil media, unlike water alone, provides a source of nutrition for the seeds. Water alone can present issues with mold in the young greens. As there are many types of microgreen vegetables that can be grown from seed, there are different requirements for successful germination. Some seeds are placed directly on the soil surface, and others are planted under a very thin layer of soil. Some have deeper roots, necessitating the need for a deeper tray. And some need more light or warmth than others. If light is poor, you can use a grow lamp. Seeds can be started in soilless potting media that is sterile and arable, products commonly found at home improvement stores or nurseries. Keep the media moist, but not soggy, and check them daily for consistent growing conditions. Professional growers use trays that water from the bottom up, insuring that moisture is always available for the tender roots.



Photo by MG Hedy Wolpa

“Microgreens are ready to harvest very quickly”

Harvesting Microgreens

Microgreens are ready to harvest very quickly, before the second set of leaves appears, which makes them ideal for growing at home right in your kitchen. Their nutritional value is best the same day as, or up to a day after, harvesting. To harvest, simply trim the growth above the soil line with clean kitchen shears. If you must store them, keep them in the refrigerator with a light plastic cover for a brief time.

Eating Microgreens

Microgreens are enjoyed for their taste, texture, and flavor. Stir them into hot or cold dishes, include them in your favorite salads, blend them into smoothies, or use them as a garnish as you would use parsley. Some varieties are crunchy, and taste great in a sandwich or salad. However you use them, know that you're getting a big nutritional boost in your diet.

Chef Mary Bass, the renowned chef and owner of La Cocina in Galveston, uses microgreens throughout her fabulous and ever-evolving menu.

“Microgreens are a compact source of vitamins, minerals and flavor! These tiny compact little greens add wonderful flavor

and crunch to salads, tacos and all your favorite dishes. Consider growing microgreens and adding them to your ingredients list,” Bass said.

Here's one more thought about microgreens: they are highly desirable and affordable for families in neighborhoods that are food deserts, where there is a lack of available fresh vegetables and fruits, and where nutrition is a priority for young and growing families. Now that you know more about how quick and easy it is to grow microgreens at home on the kitchen counter, you might want to share this knowledge in community gardens where you actively participate.

Sources:

Introducing Microgreens: Younger, and Maybe More Nutritious Vegetables by Maggie Berger; August 31, 2012; <https://vfc.tamu.edu/2012/08/31/introducing-microgreens-younger-and-maybe-more-nutritious-vegetables/>. Link to primary article produced by NPR, including quote by Dr. Patil.

Growing Microgreens, Purdue Extension, accessed 8/4/2022; <https://extension.psu.edu/growing-microgreens>. Growing information for producers, still applicable to home production.

Microgreens: A Guide to Growing Microgreens for the Home Gardener by Katherine Fontenot, LSU Extension; <https://lsuagcenter.com/articles/page1625257098667>. Growing information applicable to home production.



Photo by MG Hedy Wolpa



Photo by MG Hedy Wolpa

Irish Potatoes - An Unappreciated Garden Treasure



Kevin Lancon
GCMG 2018

Potatoes are one of my favorite vegetables to grow in the garden, possibly second only to tomatoes. They are really easy to grow, don't require a whole lot of tending, and reward you with bountiful harvests that taste absolutely amazing compared to store bought. In addition, store bought potatoes are also on the EPA's Dirty Dozen list, which are vegetables that contain the highest level of pesticides. That alone is motivation to grow this wonderful treasure in your home garden.

Irish potatoes are a cool season crop. They grow best when the days are warm and the nights are cool, as warm soils inhibit the formation of potatoes or tubers to which they are technically referred. Fortunately, we are blessed in Galveston County to have two opportunities to grow potatoes during the year, one in early spring and another in late fall. The most opportune time to plant spring potatoes is around Valentine's Day or February 14. The most opportune time to plant a fall crop is Labor Day or September 5, when the temperatures have cooled down a bit. Despite being a cool season crop, the tops of the plant cannot withstand a frost, so they may need to be protected if an abnormal frost is forecasted. Since potatoes require 12 to 14 weeks to mature, and due to our short "cool" seasons on the Gulf Coast, we can only grow determinate or short season varieties of potatoes.

Below in chart form are some excellent varieties that are readily available to us on the Gulf Coast.

Unlike most other vegetables, Irish potatoes are not grown from seed. Instead, pieces from the potato itself start new plants. It is critical to buy good seed potatoes that are free of disease and chemicals. Do not buy potatoes from a grocery store, as many of these have been treated with chemicals to inhibit them from sprouting. The seed potato contains buds

or "eyes" that sprout and grow into plants. The seed piece provides food for the plant until it develops a root system. If the seed is too small, it will produce a weak plant. One pound of seed potatoes will make 9 to 10 seed pieces.

Potatoes should be planted a minimum of six inches deep for the best results. Studies have shown that six inches is optimum, two inches resulted in reduced production, and four inches was not significantly less productive than six inches. However, if you plant them four inches deep or less, you will probably end up having to "hill" the potatoes to prevent sun scald. The seed pieces should be planted sprout side up 8 to 10 inches apart. Within a few weeks from planting, the potato plant will sprout.

A key to growing lots of large potatoes is to grow a beautiful plant with lots of leaves. Through photosynthesis, the leaves make sugars, which are sent down to the tubers for development. The plant must have adequate moisture and fertilizer when the tubers are forming, therefore it's recommended that a balanced fertilizer should be applied once when the plants are six to eight inches tall when tuber formation is just beginning. Potatoes are ready to harvest when the tops begin to yellow and die back, generally 80 to 100 days from the time of planting but can be harvested before that. Personally, I prefer to harvest a little at a time instead of all at once. Early harvest can begin shortly after the plant completes its flowering stage. Carefully pull some of the soil back under the plant until you find a few of these buried treasures, then replace the soil so they can continue to grow. They may be a bit small at this time, but they sure taste amazing and more of these beauties await you in the future.

Bon appetit.

Variety	Skin Color	Days To Maturity	Group	Habit
Red Norland	Red	70-90 days	Early Season	Determinate
Red LaSoda	Red	85-95 days	Mid Season	Determinate
Red Pontiac	Red	90+ days	Mid Season	Determinate
Russian Banana	Tan	90+ days	Mid Season	Determinate
White Kennebec	Buff	80+ days	Mid Season	Determinate
Yukon Gold	Yellow White	70-90 days	Early to Mid Season	Determinate

“Potatoes reward you with bountiful harvests”



Potatoes. Photo by Kevin Lancon



Red Potatoes. Photo by Kevin Lancon

The Many Faces of Cauliflower



Sandy McBride
GCMG 2018

Cauliflower has been selectively bred and is one of the oldest cultivated varieties in its species. They are prized for their large, edible head and have been eaten for almost two thousand years. It is much more diverse than people realize. There are hundreds of distinct types, sizes, and colors, with the white ones being the most common and available. However, many

are colorful, with heads of purple, green, orange, and yellow and each has its own texture and flavor. Why not be adventurous and try growing different colored cauliflowers in your fall garden?

Cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea*) is identified to be in the Mustard Plant Family (Brassicaceae) and is grouped with cole crops. Cole crops include among others, broccoli, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts. These are cool season crops that can be grown in your garden.

White Cauliflower

This is the cauliflower you commonly see in the store, with a white head of flower buds or curd surrounded by green leaves. Varieties for our region include 'Snow Crown' and 'Snowball Y Improved'. When the cauliflower head is about the size of an egg, gather the longest leaves over the curd and tie them with a rubber band or twine. This is known as blanching and shades the head to prevent it from becoming yellowish in color. Some varieties are self-blanching as the leaves wrap around the curd naturally to protect the head.

Orange/Yellow Cauliflower

These beautiful cauliflowers have orange or yellow-colored curd. Typically their color becomes more intense when cooked. They have a mild and sweet taste and smooth texture. The orange varieties are high in beta-carotene and Vitamin A. 'Cheddar' is a common variety and an excellent choice for our area.

Purple Cauliflower

This cauliflower will look great in your garden! The purple curd is surrounded by bluish/green leaves. The curd of this cauliflower is tender and has a mild flavor. The purple color comes from the same antioxidant as red cabbage and red wine, anthocyanin, which may increase its health benefits. 'Graffiti' and 'Violet Queen' are good choices for our climate.

Green Cauliflower

The 'Brocoverde' has a lime green curd, similar to the color of broccoli. It is sometimes referred to as a caul/broc hybrid. It has a milder, sweeter flavor than white cauliflower. The 'Al-verda' has a small dense head and mild nutty flavor. Both are recommended for our area.

Cultivation and Care

Cauliflower, as do all cole crops, prefer full sunlight. They perform best in improved soil, so add a three-inch layer of compost and work it into your soil. Incorporate a 15-5-10 fertilizer prior to planting and water it in well. Apply additional fertilizer at four-week intervals. Start with good transplants



Photo by Pixabay.com



“Why not be adventurous and grow different colors...”

and set them in the soil at the same depth they were in the pots. Cauliflower should be spaced about 24 inches apart. In our area plant your transplants between late August to mid-September. Keep soil moist, but not soaked. Mulch with grass clippings or leaves. Check your plants for insect damage or disease.

Harvest your cauliflower by cutting the center heads when they are tight. Overly mature heads become open and loose,

so harvest as soon as they are ready. As an added bonus, raw cauliflower is moderately rich in Vitamins A, C, and K, calcium, and phosphorus. It is also a reliable source of fiber, low in calories and sodium. Beautiful to look at and healthy, what more could you want?

Sources:

Aggie-Horticulture.tamu.edu



Photos by Creative Commons, Pixabay.com and GCMG Database

San Jacinto Community Garden



Vicki Blythe
GCMG 2018

In 1999, Galveston resident Kay Sandor and some of her friends decided to start a community garden. They found an abandoned lot in the San Jacinto neighborhood where a house had once stood, and were able to buy it from the City of Galveston for \$1. They raised money for improvements, and applied for and received a Community Development Block Grant.

The showpiece of the garden is an 1898 Henry Rosenberg Fountain, which was moved out of storage and restored. A large pergola was built close to the front of the property now covered with beautiful Rangoon Creeper (*Combretum indicum*) and Evergreen Wisteria (*Callerya reticulata*) vines. It provides a cool, shaded sitting area. A tremendous amount of work was needed to clear debris out of the lot, add soil, build walkways, build a fence, and start planting.

Today, what we refer to as the San Jac Garden is still going strong. The main area is divided into 10 individual garden plots. The gardener who assumes responsibility for a plot can plant whatever they want, and usually vegetables, herbs, and flowers. There are also two community herb beds in the garden.

The area in front of the garden, between the street and sidewalk, is now a butterfly garden and is a designated Monarch Waystation, with habitat to support the butterflies' life cycle. A recent addition to the garden area is a Little Free Library near the front gate.

Trees growing at the front and on the sides of the garden are a crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* sp.), live oak (*Quercus fusiformis*), vitex (*Vitex agnus-castus*) and mulberry (*Morus alba*) providing food and nesting areas for birds like mockingbirds, grackles, and doves. The grapefruit tree that usually yielded about 200 fruit annually was damaged with other citrus trees

from the 2021 freeze. Blackberry vines near the front gate provide an abundance of berries each year for the gardeners.

In 2010, Galveston City Council passed an ordinance allowing Galveston residents to keep chickens; up to six hens, but no roosters. Shortly thereafter, several of the San Jac gardeners obtained a coop and some hens. A newer version of that coop and six hens are still located in the middle of the San Jac Garden.

The San Jacinto Neighborhood is a triangular-shaped area about 150 square blocks on the east end of Galveston. The boundaries are Seawall Boulevard to Broadway Avenue, between 6th Street and 23rd Street. The San Jacinto Community Garden is located at 2005 Avenue N 1/2. It is six blocks north of the historic hotel, the Grand Galvez.

Kay reports the block where the garden is located used to be less than desirable and the beautiful garden improved and helped revive the block, which contains several historic homes. The San Jacinto Neighborhood Association owns this garden, and they provide support by paying the utility bills. They sometimes hold monthly meetings in the garden.

Among the San Jac gardeners are Galveston County Master Gardeners Kay Sandor (GCMG 2018), Vicki Blythe (2018), and Kathy Maines (2017). Erhard Goerlitz (2017) was a long-time San Jac gardener, but he has recently moved away. We will always think of Erhard when his poppies come up every year. We thank Kay and the others who accomplished the hard work of starting this wonderful garden and "sowing the seeds" 23 years ago.

The San Jac Garden has an Open Garden day on the third Saturday of each month, from 9 am until noon. The gardeners often have plant sales then. If not, they are there pulling weeds. Visitors are welcome!



San Jacinto Community Garden



Kay Sandor at San Jacinto Community Garden



Gate at San Jacinto Community Garden

Carothers Community Garden



Jesse Jones
GCMG 2020

FACEBOOK POST, Saturday morning, Feb 26, 2021.... 6 am.....

Would anyone have an interest in building a community garden?

SAME FACEBOOK POST, 18 hours later.... We have 240 comments! All of them are positive!

Reality sets in....How do we build a Community Garden?

And that is how three folks who had never met became great friends and started to build Carothers Community Garden.

Because the City of Seabrook believes in parks and open spaces, finding a small plot shouldn't be that difficult... right? First, a garden needed access to water and it had to have enough parking. It needed to be secure from both two-legged and four-legged animals. Those were priorities.

Secondly, I needed some help. Nemo Jackson, former member of the Parks Planning Board was the first to step up followed by local realtor Samantha Connaway. She had social media and organizational skills needed to keep us focused.

We had a plan but needed money. Our package with budget and artist rendering was submitted to the City but Council approval was needed for funding. Our ace-in-the-hole was Councilman Ed Klein who is also a Galveston County Master Gardener. BOOM! Our project was approved and funded for \$21,000. It would be located near Maas Nursery and adjacent to Carothers Coastal Gardens at the abandoned former Parks Maintenance facility.

This site was perfect with shade structures, an office, two bay warehouse, and tool storage area. Our challenge was to turn a crushed limestone parking lot into a garden. We would scrape a little 4' x 20' shallow depression to get down to the soil lev-

el. Then we build a raised bed from 2 x 12's. We found the parking lot had places over two feet thick. The indentations sat full of water. In December 2021 the City arrived with a backhoe and it rained for days. We ended up using a tractor-mounted auger and drilling several 9" diameter drainage holes in each bed. It worked.

Calls for volunteers had not gone unanswered. Every scheduled work day, at least a dozen would show up. After the City finished with the waterlines, the compound had become a muddy mess due to rain. Despite freezes, biting bay winds, COVID, and other factors, our intrepid volunteers still showed up every time. We could not have done it without them. An assembly line method was used to build the raised beds. One group would place them, and another would fill them with soil - 120 cubic yards of fantastic compost provided by Nature's Way Resources in Conroe. This was our secret weapon. Great soil!

Our goal was to have plants in the ground by March 1. It took 90 days from start to completion! There were 27 raised beds, each with a faucet and hose. Now, we needed gardeners. Many had shown an interest. A call went out on social media with a sign up sheet.... 130 people signed up for 27 plots! After discussion, we offered a choice of sharing a bed. Since the majority of our gardeners were first timers, this was readily accepted. We also had a Boy Scout and a Cub Scout plot.

In the end, we provided over 40 people with a growing space. With real-time education and consultation with Galveston County Master Gardeners, we provided a planting list with the area's most resilient varieties. It worked! Our first year garden was a huge success and everyone is ready now to get their Fall gardens planted.

Drop by and see us! 605 Pine Gully Rd. in Seabrook



Aerial view of Carothers Community Garden



Carothers Community Garden with plants

Photos by MG Jesse Jones

Senna bicapsularis



Lynn Shook
GCMG 2018

Christmas Senna is one of the South's most beautiful fall/winter bloomers.

This shrub/ornamental tree is one I discovered a few years ago. My only plant was devastated by the 2021 hard freeze with 15-degree temps for three days. I was not discouraged since this was an unusually long and severe freeze. I've propagated quite a few this year and starting from seed indoors, now transferred outdoors into pots. I also placed several in my landscape. Look for them at our in-person plant sale during the Master Gardener Fall Festival, October 8.

Family: Fabaceae

Genus/species: *Senna bicapsularis*; synonym *Cassia bicapsularis*

Other common names: Butterfly bush, Winter cassia, Money bush

Hardiness zones: 9a to 11b

Region of origin: northern part of South America

Flower description: Light yellow to deep golden-yellow butterfly shaped flowers; prominent curved stamens; bloom time is fall/winter, appearing in large sprays (racemes).

Leaves: Green/smooth/compound-similar to the Candlestick tree (*Cassia alata*)

Characteristics: Christmas senna is a semi-evergreen upright shrub or small specimen tree with a height up to 6-12 feet and width to 8-10 feet. They can be pruned back to shape and

can be encouraged to shrub out more, or tree form by staking them early on and trimming back lower growth to encourage upper stems to flourish and flower more the next year.

Spacing requirements: Plant about five feet apart if you plan to keep them in a row or hedge/group. They have a sprawling habit. Staking is recommended for support if you train as a specimen tree.

Shaping and pruning: Frequent pinching of the young shoot tips or pruning during the growing season up to the beginning of September encourages branching and increases the number of flowers.

Hardiness: Generally, Christmas senna will recover after a hard frost and can be down to ground level if necessary. If roots freeze, it will likely kill the plant. Mulch in winter to help protect roots.

Water/soil/ light requirements: Water regularly and as needed for most ornamental plantings. Use improved loamy soil with good drainage. Sennas like full sun with six or more hours exposure per day. Fertilize with a balanced fertilizer after established, once or twice a year during spring and summer.

Pests: There are few, if any pests that attack the plant. Senna plants are host for the Cloudless Sulphur Butterfly; foliage and flower buds are sometimes eaten by the caterpillars. Otherwise, there are no serious insect problems.

Propagation: seed/cuttings

Sources:

University of North Carolina (North Carolina Extension Gardener Toolbox) and Texas A&M University (tamu.edu/earthkind);



Courtesy of North Carolina Extension



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Photo Gallery Colors of Fall

By Tom Fountain

Redwater TX. Near the tree farm. My favorite photo of fall.

By Mary Jane Fortney

Golden Lotus Banana (*Musella lasiocarpa*) also Chinese Yellow Banana. The 10 inch flowers resemble a lotus when first opening. Tough, hardy and easily grown, it makes a beautiful container or garden specimen.

By Stacey Phillips

Mexican Flame Vine (*Senecio confusus*). A great plant with gorgeous blooms.

By Linda Steber

From the Elizabethan Gardens in the Fort Raleigh National Park in Manteo, NC, the photo is a garden dahlia (*Dahlia pinnata*) a species in the genus *Dahlia*, family Asteraceae.

By Michelle Thompson

Happy Fall Faces in Friendswood

By Lisa Davis

A corn maze in Vermont



Send in a photo to be considered for this page.
Next Photo Gallery Topic will be **Joy 2022**.
As we say goodbye to 2022, what plant/garden related photo will be a favorite 2022 memory (will be in the Nov/Dec Holiday issue). Send with plant name(s) 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. **Deadline October 1.**



Insects in the Garden: Tomato Hornworm vs Tobacco Hornworm



Kathy Maines
GCMG 2017



Photo Courtesy Kathy Maines

What happened to my tomatoes?
They looked great yesterday.

Then you see a huge green caterpillar eating your tomatoes. How often has this happened to you? What is it? More than likely, it is a tobacco hornworm and here's how to tell the difference.



Tomato damage by *Manduca sexta* (L.), the Tobacco Hornworm
Photograph courtesy James Castner, University of Florida, entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/field/tobacco_hornworm.htm



Tomato Hornworm (*Manduca quinquemaculata*)
Photographs courtesy Paul Choate and James Castner, University of Florida, entnemdept.ufl.edu



Tobacco Hornworm (*Manduca sexta*)
Photographs courtesy Paul Choate and James Castner, University of Florida, entnemdept.ufl.edu

“The tobacco hornworm is much more common on the Texas Gulf Coast”

Left to right previous page: Tomato (*Manduca quinquemaculata*) and Tobacco (*Manduca sexta*) Hornworms are large green caterpillars with diagonal white bars on their sides and a slender horn at the tip of their bodies. The tobacco hornworm caterpillar has black margins on its white stripes and has a red horn. The tomato hornworm caterpillar has green margins on its white stripes and a blue horn. They have chewing mouthparts and eat the same plants. However, the tobacco hornworm is much more common than the tomato hornworm on the Texas Gulf Coast.

As adults, they are fast-flying sphinx or hawk moths with a 5-inch wingspan. You may think it is a hummingbird when it flies quickly by you. They both have mottled gray, white, and brown wings resembling tree bark, and the forewings are much larger than the hind wings. The tobacco hornworm moth (also called Carolina sphinx moth) has 6 orange spots on its abdomen and the tomato hornworm moth (five-spotted hawkmoth) has only five orange spots. They are attracted to light. Both spend winter in the soil as pups, and adult moths emerge in the spring. They are more frequently found at dusk hovering over flowers.

Female moths deposit eggs on the underside of host plant leaves. Eggs hatch in about seven days. Larvae (caterpillars) develop and begin feeding on leaves. Larvae may overwinter in the soil. If they overwinter in the soil, they are ready for all

the new spring tomatoes. This is why turning the soil is recommended. Birds love caterpillars.

Why are they eating my tomatoes? Host plants include family Solanaceae, also commonly called nightshades. These include tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, potato, petunia, angel's trumpet and datura.

How do I get rid of them? We recommend to consider using strategies described through Integrated Pest Management: vegetableipm.tamu.edu. Hand picking caterpillars and either smashing or dropping in soapy water will work. Be sure and wear gloves as they can be very squishy and yucky! There are products containing active ingredient Bt, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a soil-borne bacteria used as biological control for moth and butterfly caterpillars, that can be effective. Whichever way you choose, be sure and follow pesticide label application directions.

For more information:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Field Guide to Common Texas Insects – Tomato Hornworm: texasinsects.tamu.edu/tomato-hornworm/

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension – Managing Insect and Mite Pests in Vegetable Gardens: extensionentomology.tamu.edu/files/2017/10/Managing_Insects_Vegetables_E194.pdf

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension – Tomato Problem Solver: aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/problem-solvers/tomato-problem-solver/



Above: Tomato Hornworm, Five-spotted Hawkmoth
Photographs courtesy John Capinera, University of Florida, entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/field/hornworm.htm



Above: Tobacco Hornworm, Carolina Sphinx Moth
Photographs courtesy John Capinera, University of Florida, entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/field/hornworm.htm

Veggie Quiz!



Lisa Belcher
GCMG 2014

You know that a tomato looks different than a cucumber, but can you match the vegetable leaves with the vegetable flower? This is a tricky quiz as some leaves look very similar.

For each vegetable, pick a numbered flower with a letter from the leaf photos.

Answers on page 34



Meet a Master Gardener: Kay Sandor



Barbara Canetti
GCMG 2016

Of all the credentials awarded to Master Gardener Kay Sandor, her designation as a Texas (and Galveston County) Master Gardener is the most precious to her.

In fact, she gets sentimental reflecting on her status as a master gardener, calling it the accolade that “takes me full circle.”

Kay grew up on the northern peninsula of Michigan, in a tiny town of mostly Hungarian immigrants where her parents were florists and raised plants in seven greenhouses on their property. At a young age, she remembers getting her hands dirty in the soil and learning about plants and flowers and how to properly grow them.

“Being a Texas Master Gardener is my highest and most prized credential,” she said, wiping a tear. “It reminds me of my parents.”

Kay was part of the MG Class of 2018 and was so excited to join the program. Although she often attended lectures and sales from the master gardeners, she was unable to take the classes until she retired from the University of Texas Medical Branch in 2013.

“I wanted to be taught by Dr. (William) Johnson and I wanted to do it before he retired. I knew he was an expert and had the credentials,” she said. “He was a natural teacher and he knew so much.”

After finishing the program, she rotated through several of the departments: tools, greenhouse, pollinator garden and vegetable gardening. A series of medical issues sidelined her for a while. She is back now and is interested in growing herbs, specifically medicinal herbs.

Kay’s background is in the medical field. She spent 23 years at UTMB as a professor. She has a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree and a doctorate from the University of Texas in Austin in nursing. In addition, she is certified as a licensed professional counselor after completing studies at the University of Houston Clear Lake.

And, as she worked and attended school, she also raised three children with her partner, Gary, of 43 years. She now has grandchildren, too.

One of Kay’s passions has been community gardening. She has lived in Galveston for 30 years. During this time she was determined to help set up a community garden in her neighborhood, the historical area known as San Jacinto which is south of Broadway in Galveston’s midtown. With help from a

city councilman, she was able to procure a lot on N ½ Street at 21st, clear off weeds and debris and turn it into a little oasis in the city. Ten members of the community share the garden, where plots are maintained and vegetables, flowers, milkweed for butterflies and pollinating plants are grown, alongside three chicken coops with egg-laying hens.

“I just love it there. It is so peaceful,” said Kay of the San Jacinto Community Garden. “It is a sanctuary. And the energy of the other people is what is so fulfilling to me.”

And talk about energy! In January, she returned to Galveston from Mars – well, a Mars-simulated experience in the Utah desert, where she was appointed the Green Habitat Officer for the Mars Society’s Mars Desert Research Station. For two weeks, she experimented with plants and vegetables grown in the greenhouse there, tending to plants that would help the international crew of six be self-sufficient, if they were in space. She brought with her some of her medicinal herbs: chamomile, holy (tulsi) basil and lavender to make tea and treats for the crew.

“This was my golden ticket,” said Kay. “I had to treat the problems in our garden with what I had. It was quite an experience.”

As she looks forward, one of the areas Kay wants to pursue is medicinal plants. She would like to introduce some of her knowledge into the Discovery Garden.

“I am interested in the herbs and they are easy to grow here,” she said. “I just want to continue learning.”



Photo courtesy of Pedro Marcellino, videographer/documentarian with the Mars Society

Plant of the Month: Chrysanthemums



Elayne Kouzounis
GCMG 1998

Whether they're filling a container, edging a walkway, or mixing with other fall-blooming perennials in a bed or border, few autumn gardens are without a clump or two of Chrysanthemums (*Chrysanthemum* × *morifolium*). They can be known as a garden mum or florist's mum. Many have fond memories of homecoming mums when fresh chrysanthemums were showcased with alma mater decorations. They are a member of the Aster family (Asteraceae) and are hardy perennials.

Their showy flowers come in shades of yellow, maroon, rust, bronze, mauve, purple, red, and white and are a joy at the end of the garden season. Once available only in late summer and fall, it is now possible to pick up pots of mums any time of the year. Commercial growers know how to manipulate the plants' bloom time. Chrysanthemums are short-day plants in that they need long periods of uninterrupted darkness at night to flower. Growers today use black shade cloth to cover mums for the requisite 10 or 11 hours it takes to force them into bloom.

With the onset of year-round availability, mums are now treated like annuals. Many gardeners buy them at garden centers and grocery stores and place them in the garden for instant color. Instant is the operative word, for these plants are usually transient. One reason is that many of the cultivars sold today aren't hardy; moreover, most fall-planted mums don't have enough time to establish themselves in order to overwinter in cold climates. Depending on the cultivar, fall mums are hardy in zones 4 or 5 to 9.

While the availability of instant bloom is a boon to gardeners, becoming a throwaway plant is a sad fate for a flower with such a noble and ancient history. Confucius wrote about mums 2,500 years ago, and Imperial Chrysanthemum exhibits were common in Japan by the fifth century. The flower symbolizes happiness and longevity. Despite being an Asian plant, the name Chrysanthemum is from the Greek *chrysos*, "gold," and *anthemon*, for "flower." A few species were imported to Europe in the 17th century, but mums didn't catch on until 1843, after Robert Fortune, the Scottish botanist, plant hunter and traveler, brought the fall-flowering species back to England.

Garden mum flower heads consist of petal-like ray florets surrounding a densely packed center of disc florets.

Flower forms vary—breeders are forever introducing new ones—and include singles, semi doubles, doubles, and much more. Both buds and flowers can withstand light frosts. New buds continue to open long after annuals have been blackened by the cold. Plants range from one foot cushion types to two feet tall or more. Their attractive, lobed leaves are aromatic when bruised.

Give mums a spot in full sun, although if they are being grown as annuals to be discarded after flowering, exposure doesn't matter all that much. Average to enriched, well-drained soil is best for these hardy cultivars. Good drainage is crucial over winter, when water collecting around the crowns causes rot. Pest insects often encountered are aphids and spider mites; virus diseases and nematodes may sometimes be a problem.

To grow Chrysanthemums as perennials, start in the spring with rooted cuttings or small, starter plants of hardy cultivars. Pinch off any flower buds and cover cutting-grown plants with bushel baskets or burlap for a day or so. Keep the soil evenly moist—mums are shallow rooted and shouldn't be allowed to dry out—and feed plants twice, in early spring and again in midsummer. Pinch off the tips of the stems about two weeks after planting and again each time the stems produce another six inches of new growth.

Stop pinching in mid-July in the South, to allow plants to form flower buds.

Cultivars take different amounts of time to flower. Early-blooming mums are the best choice in areas with very short seasons. In those areas where killing frosts don't come until late October or November, it is suggested to plant a mix of early, mid-season, and late cultivars to lengthen the bloom season.

Deadheading extends bloom time. After flowering ceases, cut hardy cultivars back hard to four or five inches, and cover them with certified seedless straw or evergreen branches if the ground has frozen. Dig and divide plants annually in spring, discarding any woody growth and replanting only young, healthy growth. Mums also are easy to root from basal cuttings taken in early spring; cuttings will produce beautiful blooming plants in the fall.

"Flowers leave their fragrance in the hand that bestows them." Chinese Proverb

“A flower with such a noble and ancient history”

Sources:

The Complete Garden Guide Time Life Books Alexandria, Virginia 217, 299, 301, 310

The Treasury of Gardening copyright 1998 Publications International pages 149, 260



Image by Manseok Kim from Pixabay



Image by Marjon Besteman from Pixabay



Image by Shirley Hirst from Pixabay



Image by Marjon Besteman from Pixabay 2



Image by Suppenkasper from Pixabay

Discovery Garden Update



Tom Fountain
GCMG 2008

This summer has been a real scorcher! Summer's triple digit heat arrived in the area almost a month early and hung around with temperatures averaging between three and four degrees above normal. This season has been very dry, and we are over 15 inches below normal in rain for the year. We have experienced extreme drought conditions for several months. A few spotty showers have occurred in our area mainly near the coast. Rainfall has averaged two to three inches below normal and some locations recording some of their driest June and July of record. NOAA's extended forecast continues to indicate temperatures will likely be warmer than normal, and rainfall is expected to be near normal.

The tropics have been quiet so far, but this is hurricane season and we are approaching the peak of the season, so please stay alert and stay safe. Our summers are usually a time of harvest. Bumper crops have included green beans, cucumbers, peppers, cantaloupe and other fruits and vegetables. However, this year has yielded slim pickings because of the hot and dry weather. Any of the tender plants that needed moisture gave up early despite some watering as in beds in (Fig 1 and 2). I saw Bill and Joanie Cummins in the garden a few weeks ago (Fig. 2). They had come out to pull out their pole beans. Bill confessed that the pole beans did not produce at all this year. Most of the beds are already empty and waiting for a fall planting.

Like every other season there are always projects and maintenance to do in the garden. Larry Brizendine discovered that the mower needed new blades and was busy changing out the blades when I came across him (Fig 3). One of the bigger projects is replacing some of the raised beds with new metal beds. On one of our hottest days this summer, Kevin Lancon and Robert Marshall were busy putting in the plumbing for the new beds (Fig 4). The metal beds are in place now and should be completed for the fall.

While working during hot days in the garden, take a hint from gardeners pictured (Fig. 5) Jan Fountain, Patsy Jewell, Tish Reustle and Judy Anderson, and find some shade. Take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water. Always stay hydrated.

Jim Edwards (Fig. 6) was out in the garden this summer despite the heat, it was good to see him. As for the rest of our gardeners, fall planting time is not far away and also cooler weather. I hope to see you back in the garden soon.



Photos by Tom Fountain

Book Review: *The Botanist's Daughter*



Lisa Belcher
GCMG 2014

For the first time, the Green Thumb Book Club read a fiction book. Written by Australian author Kaytee Nunn, the story revolves around two women, a rare plant, and a mystery that will have you guessing until the last chapter.

The book jumps from two-time frames. It is 2017 and we first meet Anna, a horticulturalist who recently inherited her grandmother's house and is in the process of a remodel. The mystery begins after a wall is partially demolished and Anna finds a unique box, a sketchbook of beautiful botanical painted flora, and a photograph dated Spring 1866.

We are next introduced to Elizabeth. It is during the Victorian England timeframe and she is the daughter of a rare plant hunter. Elizabeth is very strong-minded and proceeds to embark on her late father's quest for a rare plant in Chile. The journey for Elizabeth is not an easy one but she is not alone as she has brought her maid, Daisy, to accompany her. Once in Chile, Elizabeth finds that she is not the only one who is searching for the elusive plant called the Devil's Trumpet.

Anna too has several enigmas to solve; what is in the box? What do the symbols sketched in the box represent? What exactly *are* these seeds and are they still viable? Anna, like Elizabeth, leaves her home and travels far away seeking answers.

For Anna, it is leaving Sydney, Australia and seeking assistance from a plant specialist at Kew Gardens.

As both women delve deeper into this rare plant, we begin to see how their lives weave together over time. I don't want to give too much away, but I can share with you our group was very surprised by the twists and turns and reported they enjoyed the book.

2022 Books

Upcoming books for the club to read:

Current book for September:

Maverick Gardeners
by Felder Rushing

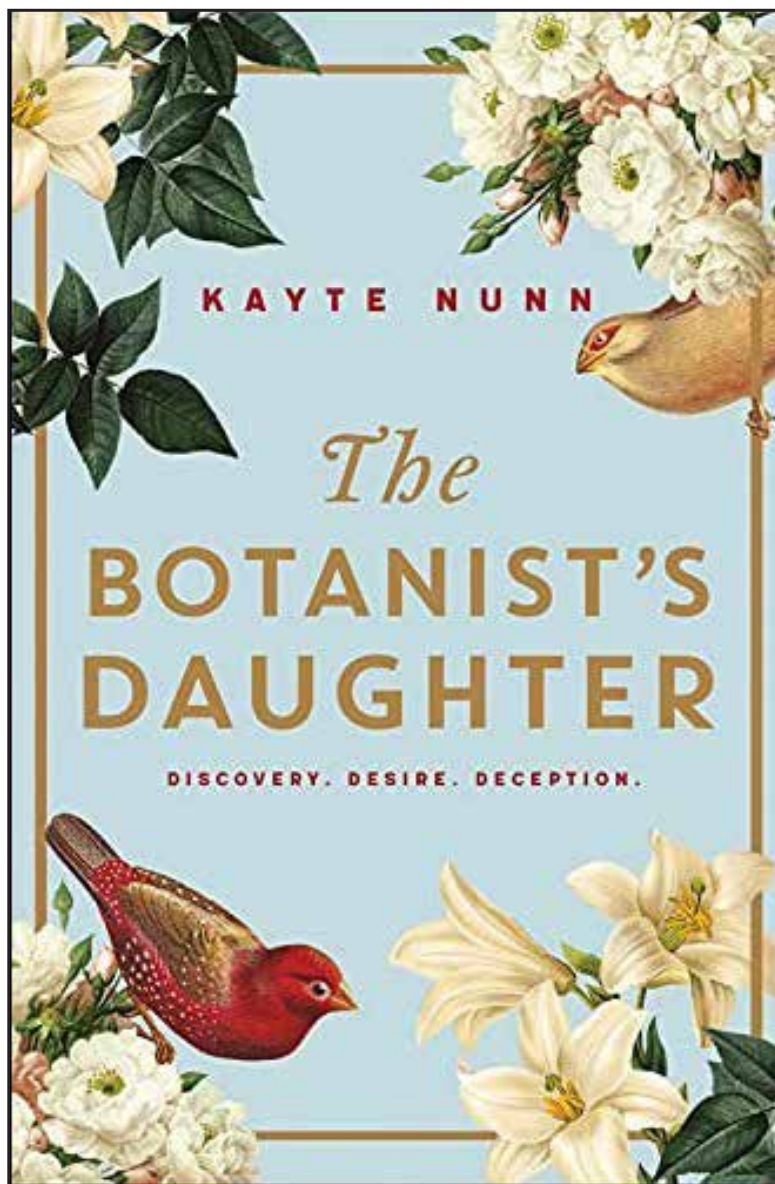
October:

Rules for Visiting
by Jessica Francis Kane

November:

The Orchid Thief
by Susan Orlean

The Green Thumb Book Club will be voting in September for the books we shall be reading in 2023 and the list will be announced in October.



Seasonal Bites: Simply Delicious!



Sandra Gervais
GCMG 2011

It's that busy time of year for both gardeners and people who love to cook.

Gardeners are busy trying to get outside work done before the heat of the day hits. Edible and desirable plants may slow down in our breath-stealing heat but weeds continue to thrive, and our gardens need rain so that we can start our fall planting. School has begun so time is limited, so here are some easy recipes to help us all survive this busy time.

First is a new way to fry eggs. Try as a new addition to a green salad with balsamic or Italian dressing, to top potatoes or to add to sandwiches. Next is an easy and tasty version of lasagna with pre-made stuffed pasta. And, finally a different version of sliced oven potatoes made with goat cheese that pairs well with all kinds of meat.



Cream Fried Eggs

1/2 cup heavy cream
4 large eggs
salt and pepper to taste
fresh thyme leaves (optional)

Directions

Add the cream to a large skillet over medium-high heat.
Swirl the pan to cover the whole bottom with the cream.
Lightly season with salt and pepper and heat until cream starts to boil, about 1 minute.
Crack the eggs carefully into small bowl without breaking yolks.
Gently slide them into the cooking cream.

The cream will start to boil again and then evaporate. Also, the butterfat will begin to caramelize around the edges. Watch carefully and lower heat if it starts to burn.

Cook until yolks are set but still a bit runny, 5-8 minutes. (For firmer yolks, cook another couple of minutes.)

Use a spatula to separate eggs and slide onto plates along with any caramelized bits.
Sprinkle with salt and pepper; use thyme if desired for more flavor.

Serve with toast, biscuits, grits.



Ravioli Lasagna

350° oven
24 ounces marinara sauce (homemade or store bought)
20 ounces refrigerated spinach ravioli (use different filling if preferred)
3 cups shredded provolone or mozzarella cheese
1 tablespoon dried Italian seasoning
1/2 cup pesto sauce (homemade or store bought)

Directions

Spread 1 cup of tomato sauce on bottom of 9 x 13 baking dish.
Top with half of the ravioli, 1 cup of cheese, 1 cup of sauce, 1/2 tablespoon Italian seasoning and 1/2 tablespoon pesto.
Repeat these layers.
Top with final cup of cheese.
Cover loosely with foil and bake 20 minutes.
Remove foil and bake another 20-30 minutes until hot and slightly browned.
Cool before serving for at least 15 minutes.
Serves 6.

Note: Be creative; use pasta with other fillings or add other herbs and spices.



Goat Cheese Potato Gratin

400° oven
5 cups peeled, thinly sliced Yukon Gold potatoes (about 2-1/2 pounds)
1 cup half-and-half, divided
1 tablespoon flour
1 cup crumbled goat cheese
1 cup reduced fat (2%) milk (not skim)
1 teaspoon salt
3/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 clove garlic, minced

Directions

In large bowl, combine 2 tablespoons half-and-half with flour and stir well.
Add rest of half-and-half, goat cheese, milk, salt, pepper, nutmeg and garlic.
Whisk together well.
Coat 9 x 9 baking dish with cooking spray.
Arrange half of potato slices in a single layer on bottom.
Stir milk mixture well and then pour half of it over the potato slices.
Repeat another layer with rest of milk mixture and potatoes.
Bake for 1-1/4 hours or until potatoes are tender and golden brown.
Serves 8.

Note: You can add crumbled bacon, finely sliced onion or even more or different herbs and spices to taste.

GCMG's Continue to Donate Produce



Kathy Maines
GCMG 2017



Since 2012, Galveston County Master Gardeners have donated produce they have grown and harvested to local organizations in need.

Vegetable beds in the GCMG's Discovery Garden provide an area for food to be grown to donate to others in need. Recipients include Friendswood's Mary Queen Catholic Church Food Pantry, League City's Interfaith Caring Ministries, Galveston's Resource and Crisis Center and Texas City's Galveston County Food Bank.

In 2022, Master Gardener Bill Spenny (Class of 2015) and his family started a non-profit organization, H Town for Humanity, to help Ukrainian refugees with housing and jobs in our area. They are also recipients of our produce.

To date, GCMGs have donated 20,193 pounds of food to the needy.

GCMG Ira Gervais loads his truck full of vegetables to make donation deliveries.

GCMG's Host Fish Fry for July Meeting



Fish Fry Chefs Adrian & Briana Etie



Alice Rodgers and Phil & Nova Haught



Tour Where Dr J Classroom will be. Photo by Karolyn Gephart

The GCMG meeting for August 9, 2022 was a trip to Moody Gardens to tour the greenhouse and then have dinner.



Bromeliads



Kathy Maines



Dinner. Photo by Ginger Hopper



Agent Stephen Brueggerhoff on the Tour Bus



Tour with Sue Bain



Touring Greenhouse

All photos are by Phyllis Koenig



Dining



Tropicals



Hibiscus



Mary Leonard



Plumeria



Touring Greenhouse

All photos are by Phyllis Koenig

September - October 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 SUNDOWN SALE

Friday, September 9, 2022, 12 pm

Saturday, September 10, 2022, 12 pm

Fruit and citrus trees, tomatoes, and perennial varieties will be available for purchase. Shop NOON TO NOON September 9 – September 10 online. Visit the Galveston County Master Gardeners' online store for more details and to shop: <https://store.galvestonmg.org> or call 281-786-6834.

ONIONS AND GARLIC

Saturday, September 10, 2022 / 9-11 am

Galveston County Master Gardener Kevin Lancon will highlight best practices for successfully growing bulb onions, garlic, leek, and multiplier shallots. Lancon will share his experiences perfecting the art of growing onions and garlic. To register, visit online: <https://txmg.org/galveston> or call 281-309-5065.

HERBS FOR THE GULF COAST GARDEN 2022

Saturday, September 10, 2022 / 1-3 pm

Galveston County Master Gardeners Briana Etie and Nancy Langston-Noh will present hands-on demonstrations in propagation techniques and make tussie mussies. They will also share herb uses, preservation techniques and tips for growing herbs in our Gulf Coast Gardens. To register, visit online: <https://txmg.org/galveston> or call 281-309-5065.

T-BUD GRAFTING

Saturday, September 24, 2022 / 9-11:30 am

Galveston County Master Gardener Hazel Lampton will present a hands-on workshop for T-bud grafting. Learn methods used on peach, plum, pear, apple, and other fruit trees. *****NOTE: Workshop is limited to 20 participants. You must pre-register to participate***** To register, visit online: <https://txmg.org/galveston> or call 281-309-5065.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S

FALL FESTIVAL – In person!

Saturday, October 8, 2022 / 9:00 am - 2 pm

Fun, food and discovery await celebrating Extension programs at our Fall Festival. The Festival will be held at the Discovery Garden in Carbide Park. Take a tour of the garden, learn at gardening seminars, Master Gardener experts available and make informed plant purchases for your home garden. To find out more: <https://galveston.agrilife.org/> or call 281-534-3413.

Volunteer Opportunities for GCMGs

Even though fall has just begun, the end of the year will be here before we know it. Have you completed and documented your volunteer hours for the year?

There are still plenty of volunteer opportunities. Please put these dates on your calendars.

- **September 9-10**
Summer Sundown Online Sale for fruit and citrus trees, tomatoes and perennials
- **September 13**
(Tuesday) Delivery volunteers needed
- **September 15**
(Wednesday) Fulfillment volunteers needed
- **September 16**
(Friday) Volunteers needed to do Pickup
- **October 8: Fall Festival Sale in the Discovery Garden:** we will sell Master Gardener grown items, fall vegetables, herbs, Louisiana Irises, hardy hibiscus and crafts. We will also have Discovery Garden tours, seminars and children's activities. We need volunteers in each plant sale area, tour leaders, help with seminars, invoicing and cashing, parking and loading plants.
- **October 28-29: Blooms & Bulbs Online Sale:** selling snapdragons, amaryllis, narcissus, various lilies & more. Volunteers will be needed for bulb packaging (Date coming)
- **November 3**
(Thursday) Fulfillment volunteers needed
- **November 4**
(Friday) Pickup volunteers needed.

There are volunteer opportunities for everyone. Please let me know if you have questions or need assistance.

Kathy Maines

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 - <i>Citrus Problems in Texas</i>	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 - <i>The Native Plant Conundrum</i>	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	2.00
3/26/2022	Rainwater Harvesting	Nat Gruesen	2.00
4/21/2022	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Paste Tomato Trials	David Eskins	0.25
4/23/2022	Looking Down on Insects	Hedy Wolpa	1.50
4/23/2022	Incredible, Edible Herbs	Briana Etie, Karen Nelson	1.50
5/14/2022	2022 Fruit Orchard Tour	Stephen Brueggerhoff, Herman Auer, Robert Marshall, Bill Verm	3.00
5/26/2022	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Shop Update	Rachel Montemayor	0.25
5/28/2022	Summer Pruning Fruit Trees	Stephen Brueggerhoff, Robert Marshall	2.00
6/4/2022	Growing Strawberries	Robert Marshall	2.00
6/4/2022	Plumeria Propagation Workshop	Loretta Osteen, Penny Besire	2.00
6/16/2022	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Grapes in the Garden	David Cooper	0.25
7/7/2022	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Discovery Garden Update	Kevin Lancon	0.25
7/9/2022	Arranging Fresh & Artificial Flowers	Jackie Auer	2.00
7/16/2022	Ramble On: Blackberry Culture	Stephen Brueggerhoff	2.00
7/16/2022	Fabulous Figs w/ Discovery Garden Tour	Stephen Brueggerhoff	2.00
7/28/2022	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Biscamp Pears	Herman Auer	0.25
8/9/2022	Moody Gardens Greenhouse Tour & Buffet Banquet	Greenhouse Horticulture Technician - Nick	1.00
8/20/2022	Vertical Gardening	Kevin Lancon	2.00

2022 Recertification Hours for MGs

Total CEUs (Hours)


56.00

Last Updated: September 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.

Galveston County Master Gardener Bulletin Board

Check out the
'Request a Speaker' form. 

It is available online: <https://tx-mg.org/galveston/speakers-bureau/>. It is located on the pull-down menu under 'About' in the header bar of the website, and choosing 'Request a Speaker'. Are you a garden club, community group or other group inquiring about the Speakers Bureau and requesting a program? Use this website to get a speaker/topic. 

Fall Festival
Sale-In Person
October 8
Master Gardener
Grown Plants, fall
vegetables, herbs.
Louisiana Irises.
Tropical hibiscus.

Blooms & Bulbs
Sale-Online
October 28-29
Hardy hibiscus,
snapdragons,
amaryllis, narcissus,
lilies

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN. LET
GCMGs HELP YOU. GO TO [HTTPS://TX-
MG.ORG/GALVESTON/GCMGA_HOTLINE/](https://tx-mg.org/galveston/gcmga_hotline/).
THIS FORM IS FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY TO GET
ASSISTANCE WITH HORTICULTURAL TOPICS.



Farewell Julie Cartmill, GCMG 2007.
She will be working with MGs in her
new home in Calhoun County, Texas.
We'll miss you!

Galveston County Master Gardeners have a
NEW WEBSITE

txmg.org/galveston

See all Gulf Coast Gardening back issues
available in large or small format at the site.
Thanks Stephanie Hendrickson, GCMG 2017
for your continuing work with Stephen
Brueggerhoff on the new website.

GCMGS:

Don't forget to log
in volunteer hours
through your VMS
account.

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Galveston County



GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

Fall Festival and Plant Sale



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022

9am until 2 pm

Early access at 8:30 am for seminar attendance

8:30 am Sale and Festival Overview

9:30 am Cruciferous Vegetables

10:30 am Herbs

11:30 am Leafy Greens

Guided Garden Tours

10:00 am

11:00 am

12:00 pm

1:00 pm

• Master Gardener grown plants

• Fall vegetables

• Crafts

• Herbs

• Louisiana Irises

• Snapinis

• Plumeria

• Seminars

• Vendors

• Garden tours

• Children's activities

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.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE | GALVESTON COUNTY OFFICE

4102-B Main Street (FM 519) | La Marque, Texas 77568 | 281.786.6834 | aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html

2022 Master Gardener Association Leadership

President

Kathy Maines

Sr. Vice President

Kevin Lancon

Treasurer

Debra Brizendine

Assistant Treasurer

Sharon Zaal

Secretary

Briana Etie

Assistant Secretary

Nancy Langston-Noh

State Association Delegates

Terry and Velda Cuculis

State Association Alternate Delegates

Ira Gervais and Sharon Zaal

VP for Programs

Herman Auer, Education Programs

Judy Anderson, Monthly Meetings

Speakers Bureau Coordinators

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, David Cooper,

Briana Etie,

Pam Hunter, John Jons,

Kathy Maines,

Monica Martens, Rachel Monte-

mayor,

Tish Reustle, and Jim Waligora

VP for Volunteer Development

Nancy Greenfield

MG Intern Course Team Leader

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Frank Resch, Tish Reustle,

and Linda Steber

CEA-HORT and Master Gardener

Program Coordinator

Stephen Brueggerhoff, M.S.

Judy's Corner and Galveston County Monthly Meetings



Judy Anderson
GCMG 2012

September

At Home with Jim and Tish Reustle

Tish and Jim Reustle will be hosting the September Backyard meeting at their home in Rancho Viejo, Friendswood.

Besides being the Serenity Garden champion at our Discovery Garden, she is an artist who uses her creations in her home garden. The spring Heritage Garden Tour in Friendswood included her creative garden. As an artist, she chooses to work with many mediums, but one of her passions is working with metal. She has taken welding classes and her creations can be seen in her home garden as well as the Serenity Garden.

Tish is planning on roasting chicken for the potluck dinner. Master Gardeners are invited to bring a potluck dish and a chair for this evening with member friends.

October

The "Great Chicken Coop Tour"

Sometimes the Galveston County Master Gardeners like to have

an adventure and the October meeting will certainly be an adventure. It will be a progressive dinner combined with a Chicken Coop Tour. Master Gardeners Robin Collins, Hazel Lampton and Lisa Davis are all chicken enthusiasts and have invited the Master Gardeners to see their unique chicken coops. Their chicken coops are truly artistic creations providing happy homes to their feathered friends.

This will be a driving tour with food stops at each location. More details will be provided later, but you don't want to miss the "Great

Chicken Coop Tour".

November

Galveston County Master Gardener Annual Meeting

Each year the GCMG holds an annual meeting to inform the membership of the business standing for the organization as required by the bylaws. This meeting will include reports from each area of the association, including financial, operational, and activities. Any expiring terms of officers will also require elections. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting and take an active role in participating.

Prior to the meeting, a potluck dinner will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy the tasty treats provided by the members.

December

Holiday Party hosted by MG Mikey Isbell



Lisa Davis' chicken coop will be on the tour.

Answers to Veggie Quiz on page 20

1. Corn 3G
2. Cucumber 5A
3. Eggplant 1F
4. Green Bean 7B
5. Pepper 2C
6. Squash 4E
7. Tomato 6D

Gulf Coast Gardening published by the **GALVESTON COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE**

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<https://txmg.org/galveston>