



HOE!  
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June 2013

GRIMES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE VI

IN THIS ISSUE

**Officers for 2013**

President: Jamie Brun  
Vice President: Kathy Laughlin  
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Treasurer: Cathey Hardeman

**Committee Chairs**

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Timekeeping: Martha Brogdon  
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Children's Activities: Phyllis Pollard/Marti Luedtke  
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Class: Nicky Maddams/Jamie Brun  
Co-op: Fred Vesperman  
Anderson Beautification: Janeth Nevill  
Publicity: Peggy Sloan  
Fundraisers: Phyllis Pollard/Dianna Westmoreland  
Go Texan Landscaping: Mike Brame  
County Fair Judging: Marti Luedtke  
Historian: Sharon Murry

**Texas AgriLife Extension**

Extension Agent: Kimberly Hall  
MG Coordinator: Jayla Fry  
Secretary: Sandra Cook

**Newsletter**

Editor: Nicky Maddams  
Article submissions, photos and information due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Send to: [biplanechik@yahoo.ca](mailto:biplanechik@yahoo.ca)

Website: [txmg.org/grimes](http://txmg.org/grimes)

Email: [grimesmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:grimesmastergardeners@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Events**

June 1-8 Grimes County Fair including Big Back Yard and Senior's Day

June 11 9:00am Monthly Meeting with speaker Clint Weaver of R. Weaver Apiaries (Raising and Care of Honey Bees)

July 9 9:00am Monthly Meeting with speaker Dr. Paul Nester, Program Specialist - IPM, TAMU "Fire ants, crazy ants, leaf cutter ants, Oh My!!"

August 13 9:00am Monthly Meeting with speaker Joe Floyd "Snakes in the Garden and Things that Sting and Bite"



**TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION**



**Photo Album of Events**



**Get to Know Your Fellow Master Gardeners!**

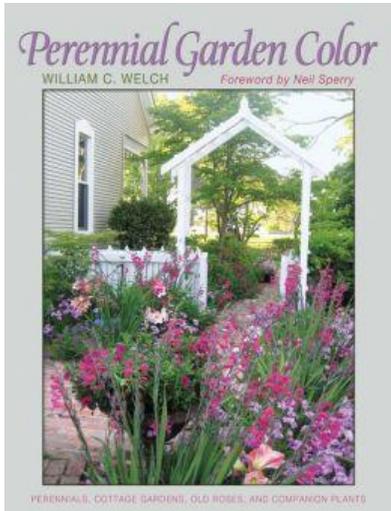
Stayed Tuned Next Month  
(interview not received by time of publishing)

## June Vegetable Planting Guide

Corn, Sweet	through June 15
Cucumber	through June 15
Eggplant	through June 10
Peas, Southern	through June 15
Peppers	through June 15
Squash	through June 15

### IN OUR CO-OP

Do you know about all the amazing things in our MG Coop? Have you looked at this wonderful book?



Gardeners in Texas and the South face their own special problems with climate and growing seasons, and they need a guide written specifically for the region in order to have the greatest chance of success. William C. Welch's *Perennial Garden Color* directly fills this need, and for years gardeners have relied on this book to aid their efforts to beautify their outdoor spaces. Now in a new Texas A&M University Press edition, this time-tested classic, dubbed a "masterpiece" by Neil Sperry, is available again.

Lavishly illustrated with more than five hundred breathtaking color photographs, *Perennial Garden Color* provides detailed information on planting and growing 125 different perennials and their companion plants. Also included are more than a hundred varieties of old garden roses, together with comments on their history and uses.

Welch, a veteran horticulturist and writer, goes beyond detailing individual flowers, however, to emphasize their use in landscape design. He illustrates how to harmonize the color, texture, and shape of perennials, old roses, and companion plants to create an overall effect of grace and elegance. The dozens of photographs of landscape designs offer a wealth of ideas and inspiration.

Focusing special attention on cottage gardens, Welch offers a history of this traditional design and provides the information needed for gardeners to make this style their own.

Written with contagious enthusiasm, *Perennial Garden Color* is a complete, comprehensive, and authoritative guide to planning and growing a beautiful and colorful garden of perennials in the South.

Information Courtesy Barnes and Noble

### PREDATOR & FIRE ANT SEMINAR



Friday, June 21, 2013 - 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Grimes County Expo Center in Navasota. Please RSVP with the Grimes County Extension Office by June 19 at 936-825-0465. \$30 per participant (Includes Lunch)

3 CEUs, IPM and General

For More Information Contact: Kimberly Hall  
County Extension Agent - Grimes County  
936-825-0513 or at [Kim.hall@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Kim.hall@ag.tamu.edu)



JUNE brings us the following birthdays:  
Lynn Whitcher - June 6  
Cathey Hardeman - June 8

Wishing you both a wonderful birthday and a great year ahead!



Registration for the TMGA State Conference opens on June 10<sup>th</sup>! This year it is being held in McAllen, Texas and is hosted by Cameron and Hidalgo Counties Master Gardeners on October 17 - 19, 2013.

Experience the Blooms, Birds and Butterflies of South Texas!

For more information, registration, tour opportunities and pricing, visit their website [here](#).

Please email [Nicky Maddams](mailto:Nicky.Maddams) for more information if you are interested in attending; we have booked a few hotel rooms together but will be releasing those unused shortly to allow others to use them.

### Questions Received at Extension Office

**Q: Why is my magnolia losing so many leaves?**

A: (after determining it was a Southern Magnolia): In the spring many broad-leaved evergreens such as holly and Southern magnolia, drop many of their oldest leaves as new growth begins. The older leaves seem to turn uniformly yellow suddenly throughout the entire plant before dropping. The younger leaves at the branch tips remain healthy and green. New growth at the tips of the branches is often evident at this time. Once the yellow leaves drop off, no further yellowing or leaf drop normally occurs.

**Q. I've got problems. I have big brown patches in my lawn. I sprayed for cinch bugs and also a fungicide. I fertilize with triple 13 the first of every fourth month. I did spray for clover in March.**

A. After determining cinch bugs were not present, we presented the gentleman with this information from Extension:

Turfgrass Diseases: Brown Patch and Take-All Root Rot Diseases on St. Augustine grass Lawns

*Dr. Phil Colbaugh, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Dallas*

*Dr. James McAfee, Extension Turfgrass Specialist*

Rhizoctonia brown patch and the Take-All Root Rot fungus are common problems on St. Augustine grass lawns in Texas. The activity of both diseases is influenced by weather conditions and by turfgrass management practices that encourage disease activities. Rhizoctonia blight (aka brown patch) is active in fall and spring, but is primarily a problem in the fall. Take-All Root Rot (TARR) disease on St Augustine grass is not so familiar to homeowners but has increasingly appeared on lawns during the past decade. The TARR disease is also active during the transition seasons when soil temperatures are in the 60 to 65 degree range.

**Rhizoctonia blight (Brown Patch):**

The fungi causing Rhizoctonia blight primarily attacks the base of the leaf blade causing roughly circular patches with symptoms of yellowing and wilting turf to appear. An easy test to determine the presence of this disease is to pull on affected leaf blades in areas of lawns that display symptoms and determine if the leaves are diseased. When Rhizoctonia blight is active, leaf blades can easily be pulled away from the St. Augustine grass stolons and display a basal rot of the leaf sheath at the point of attachment to the stolons.

Brown patch symptoms usually appear as circular patterns on lawns when night-time temperatures drop below 70 and soil moisture levels are high. Very rarely will brown patch actually kill the affected turfgrass plants. The disease generally only attacks the leaf blades and the stems (stolons) remain green and roots will remain white and active.

**Take-All Root Rot:**

The fungi causing Take-All Root Rot initially attacks the root system of the affected turfgrass plants and eventually works its way into the stolons and crown (growing points) of the plant. Symptoms for this disease include: stems (stolons) that pull up from the ground easily, similar to grub damage, brown to black roots, and small dark spots on the stems. Unlike white grubworm damage where roots are cut off by insect chewing, the TARR disease causes roots to remain attached to stolons and become withered and brown.

Under a microscope, the roots and runners reveal dark fungal strands with hyphopodia (loped, fungal attachments) which anchor the fungus onto its host plant. These dark fungal strands can be observed using a hand lens to examine stolons in affected areas of turf.

Unlike Brown patch, the Take-All Root Rot fungi can commonly destroy large areas of turfgrass. Patches of Take-All Root Rot are usually irregular in shape and can involve large areas of turf. Although this disease is primarily active when soil temperatures are cool, effects of the fungus activity can extend into the summer period where turf becomes yellow, thinned and weak growing during the hot periods of the year.

**Disease Prevention:**

While both of these diseases attack most turfgrasses, they are primarily a problem on St. Augustine grass. The real key to controlling these two diseases, especially Take-All Root Rot, is to prevent stress in the turfgrass plants. Common stress problems found in turfgrass sites include: excess shade; thatch; soil compaction; poor drainage; improper use of herbicides; over fertilization; excess supplemental irrigation.

**Cultural Controls:**

Management practices include:

- Aerate to prevent soil compaction problems.
- Avoid excess stimulation of excess top growth with too much nitrogen fertilizer.
- Water deeply and infrequently.
- Use herbicides carefully and sparingly.
- Monitor grass on regular basis.
- Provide for good drainage.
- Topdressing with peat: For Take-All Root Rot Control, research at the Texas A&M Research Experiment Station in Dallas showed that topdressing at a rate of 1 bale of peat moss (approximately 3.8 cu. ft.) per 1000 sq. ft. of turf area was sufficient to protect turf for 2 years. The acidity in the peat moss (pH = 4.4) was shown to suppress the fungi causing the take-all root rot.

**Fungicide Controls:**

Take All Root Rot (timing of application critical) –

Immunox  
Propiconazole

Brown Patch –  
(PCNB)  
Immunox

Propiconazole  
Mancozeb  
Bayleton

He was reminded to follow all label directions and water in chemicals when label directs.

**PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING & TESTING**



Friday, June 21, 2013 - 8:00am at the Grimes County Fairgrounds in Navasota.

Training costs \$60 and includes a Laws and Regulations Manual and a Private Applicator Manual. TDA Requires an Additional Fee to receive your license! Lunch is included.

For More Information Contact: Kimberly Hall  
County Extension Agent - Grimes County  
936-825-0513 or at [Kim.hall@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Kim.hall@ag.tamu.edu)



Photos Courtesy of Historian:  
Sharon Murry



May 7 Propagation Class taught by  
Specialists Helen Quinn  
and Nicky Maddams





Johnny Visor of Nature by Design taught a class May 14<sup>th</sup> on rainwater catchment and harvesting. The same day MG Sharon Murry taught composting, but we didn't catch her on camera!



On May 21, Ann DeWitt, along with her husband Thom, presented a beautiful presentation on Native Texas Plants that was enjoyed by all.





Photos Courtesy of Historian:  
Sharon Murry



**Final Day of Class  
May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Celebratory Potluck Lunch**





Our lovely hosts:  
Cathey and Sparky Hardeman



The Scott Armstrong family entertained us all with their sweet grass gospel music. What a treat!



Our Spring Social – May 14

Photos Courtesy of Historian:  
Sharon Murry and Nicky Maddams