



Officers, 2009

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HOE! HOE! HOE!

Grimes County Master Gardeners Newsletter VOLUME 5, ISSUE 8, August 2009

Current projects

New:

- *compilation of fact sheet of recommended vegetable varieties for Grimes County. Please complete and return the questionnaire to Helen by **August 31st**, listing the best varieties and days to harvest.
- *Introduction of fact-photos section on website, starting with insects by Sandra Williams .

- *Fall Vegetable Seminar
Sponsored by GCMG
September 12, 2009

Ongoing:

- *Rose beds and landscaping at Go Texan Building, Fairgrounds.
- *Landscaping at Texas Agri-Life Extension Office.
- *Painting Texas with Wildflowers

Vegetable Planting Guide



In this heat??? Yes – time to start your Fall plants!

Thru -8/10: Squash, Winter**

8/15: Cucumber

8/20: Sweet Corn

Squash, Summer**

8/31: Romaine Lettuce

Peas- Edible Pod*,

English*, Southern



* Use fiber row cover to reduce heat

** Use fiber row cover to reduce viral infection.



Lots of vegetables can be planted in September, so make sure to have your ground prepared and ready. If you want to plant in new ground, try “solarization” - spread clear plastic over the area, weight it down on the edges, and the sun will cook the grass and weeds.

Try some new vegetables this fall – something not readily available in the produce section at the supermarket!

MEETING SCHEDULE 2009

Regular meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Go Texan Building, Grimes Co. Fairgrounds, 9.00 am., except as noted below. Two evening meetings held at members' homes, and two Saturday field trips, enable members who work to participate.

- Aug 11 Go Texan. 9.00 am Speaker Justin Mechell “Rain Gardens”. Short Business Meeting.
- Sept 12 ??? Saturday Meeting at the Gergeni's country home
- Oct 13 Logan's Run Tree Farm – field trip
- Nov 10 The speaker will be Barbara Volk-Tunnell, Ag Sci Teacher at Bryan High on Holiday Arrangements
- Dec ? Christmas Party/meeting

HEADS UP!

GCMG & AGRILIFE EXT. WILL HOLD A FALL VEGETABLE SEMINAR AT THE FAIRGROUNDS. THIS WILL BE A HALF-DAY EVENT, WITH SPEAKERS AND EXHIBITS/VENDORS, AND WE WE WILL BE ASKING MEMBERS TO HELP WITH REFRESHMENTS. ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED, AND WE HOPE EVERYONE WILL BE PRESENT, WEARING GCMG TEE-SHIRTS OF COURSE!

MORE DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS, BUT MARK THE DATE **SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2009 ON YOUR CALENDARS!**

HEADS DOWN!

Our July speaker, Monique Reed, gave a very interesting program on “Belly Botany”, exploring the miniature plants in nature that so often go unseen – unless we get down to their level. Their size is often measured in millimeters. Next time you are out walking or working, take the time to look down – you will be surprised at how many of these tiny jewels are growing in your own back yard.

Rose Replant Sickness.

When replacing an old rose with a new one, here's a trick to help ensure the new one doesn't develop "rose sickness" (a condition where the plant won't thrive, and eventually dies.) You could introduce a Mycorrhizal product to the soil, **OR** simply dig a hole and sink a cardboard box of the size that holds 12 bottles of wine, fill it with a good planting medium and plant your new rose in the box. By the time the cardboard disintegrates (don't use one with a wax coating) the surrounding soil should be cured of its "sickness". There is apparently no known reason for this problem, and some growers dispute its existence. Maybe adopting a plan similar to crop rotation would be a good idea. Imagine how many bottles of wine you would need if you had several roses to replace – sounds like a party to me :)

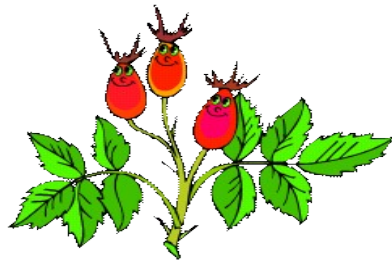
This information was obtained during a recent visit to Peter Beales' Roses in Norfolk, UK, where all their "replants" are set in cardboard boxes, and there are many references to this practice on the internet.

Helen Quinn



ON THE CALENDAR – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

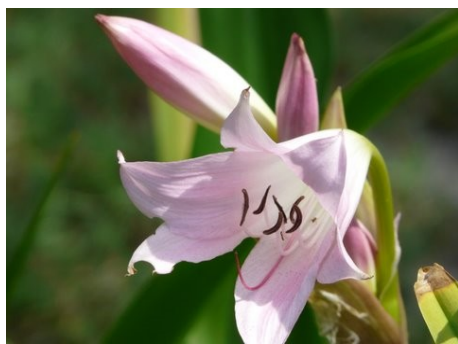
- Aug 01 Annual Recycle Extravaganza 10–3, Post Oak Mall 979-764-3806
- Aug 01 TMGA Directors' Meeting, Forest Sci-Hort Buliding, TAMU 11-3
- Aug 11 GCMG Reg. Meeting. 9.00am, Go Texan Building.
Program – Rain Gardens, Justin Mechell
- Aug 18,19,20 & 22 : Master Composter Training, CS Conference Center
979-764-3806 or www.cstx.gov/bvswma for more information.
- Aug 22 Composting seminar at MB by Sharon Murry 11.00 am
- Sep 12 GCMG meeting at Gergeni's country home – details TBA (potluck)
- Sep 14-15 Landscape Design School, Christ United Methodist Church, CS
- Sep 17-20 Rockport-Fulton Hummingbird Festival
<http://www.rockporthummingbird.com/2009newsletter.pdf>
- Sep 22 First Day of Autumn (will it be cooler????)
- Oct 13 GCMG Field Trip to Logan's Tree Farm (time & place TBA)
- Oct 17 Madisonville Mushroom Festival 10-5 for non-gardening fun!
- Oct 31 Treats on the Street – details TBA



Rose pruning tips

To keep rose bushes tidy and to encourage a second blooming period, be sure to deadhead regularly. Go down the stem to the third set of leaves to make the cut. If the bush is being grown for a fall display of colorful hips, do not follow these instructions!

HEAT-HAPPY PLANTS IN SANDRA W'S GARDEN



In order to help plants in times of stress from lack of rain and hot winds that suck their sap, 3 – 4” of mulch should help by keeping moisture in the soil. Be sure to plant varieties that are known to have a tolerance for heat/drought. Possibilities include:

Bulbine, Butterfly Weed, Coneflower, Copper Canyon Daisy, Duranta, Esperanza, Flame Acanthus, Gaillardia, Gaura, Lantana, Mexican Heather, Oleander, Plumbago, Portulaca, Society Garlic, Verbena, Zinnia, Wandering Jew, most Summer herbs, Vitex, Crape Myrtle, Inland Sea Oats, and many more – check aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu for more information.

Don't forget to stockpile rainwater (maybe “pile” isn't the right word for water) to have handy for drought periods, and remember you can save your “gray” water (washing machine, bath water, etc), because it is now legal in Texas so to do!