



# HOE! HOE! HOE!

## October 2012

GRIMES COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE X

IN THIS ISSUE

### Officers for 2012

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 Secretary: Kathy Denning  
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### Texas AgriLife Extension

MG Coordinator: Jayla Fry  
 Secretary: Sandra Curl

### Newsletter

Editor: Nicky Maddams

Article submissions, photos and information due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month

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

### Upcoming Events

October 9 6:30pm Fall Social at the home of Ann DeWitt; Potluck and BYOB. Ann will be providing map and directions. Seed, plant and bulb swap will occur at the Social. Nominations are being accepted for next year's officers.

November 10 Harvest Bake Sale fundraiser at Navasota WalMart

November 13 9:00am Monthly Meeting  
 Grace Smarsh will present "Bats". Elections will be held at this meeting

December 7 Christmas Party Potluck and Awards Ceremony at Martha's Bloomers



### Texas Superstars!

See which Superstar is featured this month



### Get to Know Your Fellow Master Gardeners!

Visit with **Jennifer Corzine** and **Nicky Maddams**. (I hope to feature the originally selected interviewees at another time; their schedules did not allow it now). Thanks Jennifer, for submitting at the last minute.



## October Vegetable Planting Guide

Beets	Now - 10/20
Broccoli *	Now - 11/15
Brussels Sprouts*	Now - 11/05
Cabbage*	Now - 12/31
Chinese Cabbage	Now - 10/15
Carrot	Now - 12/31
Cauliflower*	Now - 10/31
Kohlrabi	Now - 11/30
Lettuce, leaf	Now - 11/30
Mustard	Now - 11/15
Spinach	Now - 10/25
Turnip	Now - 11/20
Radish	Now - 11/30

•Use plants, not seeds; be sure to provide shade and adequate water



JENNIFER CORZINE

**Where were you born and how long have you lived in Texas?**

I was born in Houston, and have lived in Texas since that day.

**Where is the farthest you have traveled from Texas?**

The Bahamas

**Where would you go on your dream vacation?**

I would love to go to Paris!

**What is your favorite flower and tree? Do you grow them?**

I love the Dogwood tree. Unfortunately, I don't have any. Perhaps, I'll plant one soon.



Texas Dogwood Tree

**Where is the prettiest garden you have ever been to and what made it so?**

Not necessarily a garden, but I admire all of the plantings at the hotels in Las Vegas on the strip. Each hotel is more grandeur than the last. They are truly extravagant. It amazes me that they can even grow anything in that climate!

**What restaurant do you go to more than any other?**

Lupe Tortilla – try the chicken flautas! They're great!

**What is your favorite season?**

Spring, everything always seems so fresh and new around this time!

**Why are you a Master Gardener or Intern?**

I first became a MG to educate myself so that I could have a nice yard, and keep everything alive. Second, I wanted to meet new people. I can proudly say that I feel like I have accomplished both of my goals!

**What is the closest you have been to a natural disaster?**

In 2001, while living in Houston, my entire neighborhood was flooded by Tropical Storm Allison. It was devastating—so much loss, and years of memories washed away.

**When in your life have you needed an alibi?**

Anytime I go out with Linda Jolly! (just joking)

**What vegetable do you hate?**

I HATE beets!

**What do you love the smell of?**

A Gardenia, it's very refreshing.

**What is your favorite ice cream?**

Ben and Jerry's – Cherry Garcia

**What chore do you absolutely hate doing?**

Window washing

**What electronic gadget could you not live without?**

I'd be lost without my iPhone.

**Are you a social butterfly or do you prefer solitary endeavors?**

Somewhat of a social butterfly, but I enjoy small groups as well.

**Name one wonderful childhood memory involving gardening.**

My Grandmother had a huge vegetable garden. We would pick peas all day, and then shell them while we talked for the next several days. It didn't seem like it at the time, but those were precious memories in the making.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
PLAN AHEAD FOR PLANT SALES**

Two of our neighboring counties are holding their fall plant sales.

**Montgomery County Master Gardener Association** – October 13<sup>th</sup>; an informative Pre-Sale Program will be presented from 8:00am to 9:00am, with the sale following from 9:00am – 1:00pm.

**Walker County Master Gardener Association** – October 20<sup>th</sup>; 8:00am to 2:00pm.

## TEXAS SUPERSTARS<sup>®</sup>

**Sharon Murry** bring us this month's Texas Superstar<sup>®</sup>: Mari-Mum.

### Mums the Word....

Fall is here, the trees are turning their colors a bright yellow, orange and red. Some call it Indian Summer.

The air is fresh and cool and everywhere across the country you see chrysanthemum flowers in bloom. Mums, for short, have been a garden staple for centuries. It was adopted as the national flower of Japan in the year 910, but the name itself comes from the Greek "krus anthemom" meaning gold flower.

However, now, they come in every color except blue. The Chinese named their royal throne after the flower and according to history, the chrysanthemum flower has been known since before 5000 BC as a small yellow form.



When the blistering heat of summer has faded the rest of your annual flowers, the mum is just beginning to show off.

Fall wouldn't seem right if the school homecomings didn't have the big colorful mums for the corsages worn by mothers, sisters and sweethearts and mums always seem to be associated with the Halloween and Thanksgiving holidays. Mums have always been the finishing touch for decorating inside your home for fall.

There are a wide variety of chrysanthemum forms and colors, both perennial and annual. The chrysanthemum is actually a member of the Daisy family; Compositae. The upright, button and cushion forms tend to grow in a neat mound. There are single and double types and many 'showy' types such as the pompom and spider mums. They are suitable for flower bed borders and make excellent cut flowers.

Mums like to be grown in full sun with a well-drained, neutral to acidic soil enriched with compost and well-rotted manure. In our area, perennial mums grown in the ground should be pruned back after the fall flowering season and again in late spring. Mums can be propagated by cuttings or by division at the same time you prune them.

Maybe you have heard of the Mari-Mum? The Mari-Mum is a Texas Superstar<sup>™</sup> that is actually a marigold with a large spectacular bloom similar to a chrysanthemum, hence the name, Mari-Mum. It is considered an annual with very low maintenance and produces large yellow blossoms with a tremendous visual impact, even from a distance.

Whichever color or variety you choose for your fall garden or decorating, any one of the mums will certainly fit in with your landscape or décor. It just does not seem like fall if you do not have some mums.



NICKY MADDAMS

**Where were you born and how long have you lived in Texas?**

I was born in Alberta, Canada and moved to Texas 1-1/2 years ago.

**Where is the farthest you have traveled from Texas?**

We lived in Peru for a couple of years but Argentina is likely the farthest.

**Where would you go on your dream vacation?**

I would love to rent a little villa in Tuscany for at least a month and live like a local, toodling around on a Vespa, eating fresh food every day.

**What is your favorite flower and tree? Do you grow them?**

I love the sugar maple and frangipani (Plumeria). I have never lived in a place where I can grow the maple, but I do have nine frangipani here in Texas!

**Where is the prettiest garden you have ever been to and what made it so?**

I love the Keukenhof Gardens in Lisse, The Netherlands. Maybe it's my Dutch heritage, but I love bulbs. I also love the Butchart Gardens in Victoria, British Columbia.

**What restaurant do you go to more than any other?**

We don't eat out very much, but I like places that incorporate regional specialties into their menus. We're locavores.

**What is your favorite season?**

I love the joys of all seasons and I do miss that here in Texas. However, given a choice, I'd rather not have to shovel snow!

**Why are you a Master Gardener or Intern?**

I studied horticulture and Landscape Design at University in Canada. When we moved here, I knew I needed to find something that would allow me to meet like-minded people, get out of the house and provide a creative outlet since I am unable to work down here.

**What is the closest you have been to a natural disaster?**

An earthquake in Peru that leveled the town of Ica.

**When in your life have you needed an alibi?**

I can't tell you that!

**When was the last "back to nature" experience you have had?**

Last weekend, camping at Waterton Lakes National Park, Canada.

**Where would you like to go that is "off the beaten bath"?**

We often wander off-road; any road that looks interesting!

**What vegetable do you hate?**

Brussell sprouts and broccoli.

**What do you love the smell of?**

Frangipani, tuberose, fresh-cut grass, rain.



*Nicky's frangipani*

**What is your favorite ice cream?**

Homemade mango.

**What electronic gadget could you not live without?**

My laptop.

**Are you a social butterfly or do you prefer solitary endeavors?**

I'm pretty much a social butterfly, but I thoroughly enjoy my solitude on our little ranch with all my four-legged children.

**Name one wonderful childhood memory involving gardening.**

My Mom always gave us our own section of the garden to plant as we chose, but we had to tend it! My Mom also provided flowers for our church each Sunday so we had a big cutting garden we would try to coax through to Thanksgiving, which is the second weekend in October in Canada.

**What would you say is your garden style? (Country, cottage, formal, sculptural, etc.)**

Tropical country. I just made that up!

## GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR SEPTEMBER

Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape  
Horticulturist  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Keep a good lookout for pests at this time. As old vegetables, bean vines, etc. are pulled up and discarded in the compost heap, insects such as stink bugs and leaf footed bugs will disperse to linger on nearby plants.

- Now is the time to fertilize clumps of established warm-weather, small-flowered narcissus such as 'Grand Primo' or 'Earlicheer'. They will send out fresh roots first, and then the foliage will appear.
- Rejuvenate heat-stressed geraniums and begonias for the fall season by lightly pruning, fertilizing, and watering.
- Break off healthy shoots of such annuals as coleus, ornamental chertreuse or maroon sweet potatoes or geraniums (pelargoniums) and pot them to provide new plants to carry through the winter in the greenhouse or enclosed porch area.
- Don't allow plants with green fruit or berries to suffer from lack of moisture. Hollies will frequently drop their fruit under drought conditions.
- Prune out dead or diseased wood from trees and shrubs. Hold off on major pruning until midwinter. Pruning now may stimulate tender growth prior to frost.
- Divide spring-flowering perennials such as irises, Shasta daisies, gaillardias, cannas, day lilies, violets, liriopie, and ajuga. Reset divisions into well prepared soil with generous amounts of organic material worked into the top 8 to 10 inches.
- Prepare the beds for spring-flowering bulbs as soon as possible. It is important to cultivate the soil and add generous amounts of organic matter to improve the water drainage. Bulbs will rot without proper drainage.
- Plantings at this time can provide landscape color for three seasons in central, east, and south Texas. Annuals set out early enough will bloom as soon as Thanksgiving, and frequently last until Memorial Day. Annuals that should soon be available in nurseries and garden shops include petunias, calendulas, pansies, snapdragons, stock, sweet peas, and violas (from seed).
- Continue a disease-spray schedule on roses, as black spot and mildew

can be extremely damaging in September and October. Funginex, used every 7 to 14 days, will usually give excellent control.

- Christmas cactus can be made to flower by supplying 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness and cool nights (55 degrees F.) for a month, starting in mid-October. Keep plants on the dry side for a month prior to treatment.
- Replenish mulches around trees and shrubs, and water every 3 to 5 days.
- Start cool-season vegetables, such as mustard, lettuce, arugula, broccoli, carrots, and turnips, from seed in well prepared beds.
- Harvest okra, peppers, squash, and other vegetables often to encourage production.

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDY SERIES

#### Plan ahead....**FEBRUARY 18 & 19, 2013** **LANDSCAPE DESIGN COURSE II**

This course will feature some of the best and most popular instructors from the past as well as an outstanding featured speaker for our "outside" topic.

**Master Gardeners** who complete a course may apply 12 hours of credit to their requirements for continuing education.

Watch for more information: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

## THE NEW HYDROPONICS – NOT YOUR OL' BACKYARD MJ EXPERIMENT!



Submitted by Helen Quinn

On my latest trip to England I discovered Thanet Earth. Located on the Isle of Thanet, the eastern-most part of the county of Kent in the south east of England, and which is no longer an island, Thanet Earth is the largest hydroponic producer of salad vegetables in the whole United Kingdom.

Passing the property on the top of a double-decker bus, you 'd never know that within the perimeter is a 200 acre greenhouse, providing freshly picked tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, etc. for the food chain almost 12 months of the year. For example, they pick and ship cucumbers from February to November, and the time and distance from plant to table is minimal. Almost as fresh as picking from your own garden, without the seasonal limitations and hard work!! Everything is regulated by computer, and they even have their own bees within the greenhouses to pollinate the flowers. Thanet Earth is powered by heat and power (CHP); this is a power station which simultaneously generates both electricity and heat for the greenhouses, and produced carbon dioxide which is absorbed by the plants. They also export their excess power to the grid, and automatically add extra power at peak times.



As with most innovative operations, Thanet Earth has not escaped controversy and the eye of the media! There have been inquiries and investigations into exploitation of workers and "sweatshop" conditions, with several TV documentaries and countless newsprint articles being written.

The earliest published work on hydroponics was in 1627, "*Sylva Sylvarum*" by Francis Bacon. From there on, water culture really took off. The name hydroponics derives from the Greek hydro – water, and ponos – labor). Some of the reasons why hydroponics is being adopted around the world for food production:

- No soil is needed
- The water stays in the system and can be reused - thus, lower water costs

- It is possible to control the nutrition levels in their entirety - thus, lower nutrition costs
- No nutrition pollution is released into the environment because of the controlled system
- Stable and high yields
- Pests and diseases are easier to get rid of than in soil because of the container's mobility
- Easier to harvest
- No pesticide damage

However, without soil as a buffer, any failure to the hydroponic system leads to rapid plant death. Other disadvantages include pathogen attacks such as damp-off due to Verticillium wilt caused by the high moisture levels associated with hydroponics and over watering of soil based plants. Also, many hydroponic plants require different fertilizers and containment systems. To produce the mineral wool and the fertilizers that are needed to use this method, a large amount of energy is required.

### FIELD TRIP TO CHAPPELL HILL LAVENDER FARM



Submitted by Helen Quinn

GCMG had a great time visiting Chappell Hill Lavender Farm on September 11. Some people knew where it was and arrived in plenty of time before the Tour; some people didn't, but found it in time, and at least one person never did find it!! Prior to the tour we gathered in the gift shop where we admired all the beautiful lavender-related items, and sampled lavender lemonade and cookies, and then went outside to look at the plants.

Debbie McDowell, who owns the place with her husband, gave us a history and brief run-down of what it takes to grow lavender in this area, and answered questions from the members. She explained that they suffered greatly in last year's drought because they don't irrigate, and this year they are growing only Provence and Sweet Lavender. Several people picked bunches to take home, while others enjoyed

the sun and the scent on the air and watched the butterflies on the flowers. After a prize drawing, in which many of us were lucky enough to win lavender-related gifts. Most of us went on to Chappell Hill to eat a delightful lunch at Bever's!



Meeting at the Farm



Picking lavender to take home





Chatting in the gift shop

**WORKDAY AT THE COURTHOUSE**



At the request of County Judge Betty Shifflet, several Master Gardeners spent time tidying up the rose bushes at the Courthouse.



Marti Luedtke, Michael Brame and Phyllis Pollard (Helen Quinn taking picture)

**AGENDA ITEMS**

If you would like to see something on the agenda for next month's Master Gardener meeting, please submit to Jennifer Corzine ahead of time so that time can be allowed for discussion.

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- MG Desk: 936-825-0140
- Sandra: 936-825-0465
- Latisha: 936-825-0468



*Do you receive the Texas Master Gardener Association Newsletter? It contains lots of valuable information regarding specialist training, the International MG Conference (it's a cruise!), events happening in other counties, etc. Check it out at <http://txmg.org/> and click on newsletter signup.*

**Questions Received at the Extension Office:**

No questions were submitted to the newsletter during the month of September.