



HOE! HOE! HOE!

Grimes County Master Gardeners Newsletter

Winner of the Texas Master Gardener Association

2nd Place Newsletter Award 2006

~~~~~VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3, March 2010~~~~~

Officers, 2010

President: Jennifer Corzine
Vice President: Donna Hebert
Treasurer: Fred Vesperman
Secretary: Helen Quinn

Committee Chairs

Go Texan Beds: Kathy Denning & Linda Jolly
Ext. Office Beds: Julia Cosgrove
Communications: Helen Quinn
Children's: Linda Jolly
2010 Seminar: Sandy Robillard
Scholarship: Sandra Stuckey
Admin: Rosella Presswood & Emily Pridgeon
Class: Jennifer Corzine
Painting Texas w/wildflowers: Edmond McGee
Co-op: Fred Vesperman

Texas AgriLife Extension:

Flora Williams : (Acting) County Agent
Sandra Cook:: Secretary

Newsletter Editor:

Helen Quinn

**Articles, photos and other
Information due by 27th of each month.
Send to:**

[hortiq@gmail.com](mailto:horti@grimesmastergardeners.org)

Website:

www.grimesmastergardeners.org

Ongoing Projects:

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



We were disappointed to have to cancel the annual Spring Planting Seminar, and apologize to all who had worked hard and looked forward to this event.. There will be other exciting events throughout the year, with opportunities to learn and to teach, to earn our volunteer hours, and to have fun.

WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK –JOIN US!

VEGETABLE PLANTING GUIDE



Asparagus	1/15-3/15
Green Beans	3/10-5/5
Lima Beans	3/10-4/10
Pinto Beans	3/10-5/5
Beets	1/5-3/5
Broccoli	1/20-3/5
Cabbage, American	2/1-3/5
Chinese	2/1-3/10
Carrots	12/20-3/5
Cauliflower	2/15-3/20
Sweet Corn	3/5-5/5
Cucumber	3/20-6/15
Eggplant	3/25-6/10
Garlic	1/1-3/15
Greens: Celery	3/20-4/30
Swiss Chard	2/1-4/20
Collards	2/10-3/31
Kale	1/20-3/10
Kohlrabi	1/20-3/10
Lettuce: Head	1/20-3/15
Leaf	1/15-3/20
Romaine	3/25-5/31
Mustard	1/20-4/15
Turnips	1/15-4/20
Peas, Edible Pod	1/25-3/5
Southern	4/5-6/15
Peppers	4/5-6/15
Potatoes, Irish	2/5-3/15
Radish	1/25-5/5
Squash, S & W	3/15-6/15
Tomatoes	3/5-4/20

Don't compost all
your chickweed – it
makes a tasty addition
to the salad plate!

Remember to eat your fresh
young dandelion greens for more
potassium than a banana

When planting, remember the following:

One for the rook, one for the crow
One to rot, one to grow

I

and be prepared to thin your rows to prevent over-crowding.

DON'T BECOME A BUG MAGNET

Contributed by Kathy Laughlin

I shouldn't
have worn
Yellow!

A variety of different bugs are attracted to different colored clothing. If you wear blue the thrips will follow you around and whiteflies love yellow. Best to wear basic brown or green since these colors don't seem to attract bugs.



[1001 All-Natural Secrets to PEST CONTROL](#) By Dr. Myles H. Bader

ON THE CALENDAR : MARCH/APRIL

- Mar 2 – Class 8.30-12.30 - Lions Club Building – Plant Health
- Mar 9 – Class 8.30-12.30 – Fruit & Nuts for the home garden
1.30 pm GCMG Regular meeting – Go Texan
- Mar 16 Class 8.30-12.30 – A&M Hort. Gardens – Vegetable Gardening
- Mar 23 Class 8.30-12.30 - Propagation
- Mar 30 Class 8.30-12.30 - Landscape Horticulture
- Apr 6 – Class –8.30 – 12.30 - Stuckeys' House – Rainwater Harvesting
- Apr 13 – Class – 8.30-12.30 – Lawns & Turfgrass
- Field Trip to Brookwood
- Apr 20 – 8.30-12.30 – Ext. Office tour, wrap-up and lunch at Go Texan
- Apr 8-9-10 TMGA Annual Conference, Dallas/Las Colinas

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.

Lamb's Ear – contributed by Jennifer Corzine

A few years ago, my kids talked me into buying a Lamb's Ear plant. They loved it because the leaves are similar in shape to a lamb's ear, and for the velvety, soft fuzzy leaves. After carefully selecting a location, and planting, I was very pleased with the outcome. It is one of the hardiest plants in my garden, surviving both the heat of our summers, and also the recent frigid temperatures.

Lamb's Ear, or *Stachys byzantine*, is a perennial. It is generally grown for its texture and silvery-green foliage. Hardy in zones 4–7, Lamb's Ear is very easy to grow and does best in full sun. It can survive in the poorest soil; however, good drainage is a must. There are several varieties available, some with small purple or white flower spikes that bloom in late spring or early summer, or newer varieties that do not bloom. The plant



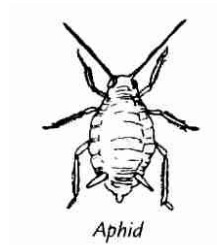
will usually get around 6 – 8" tall, and 12" wide, and can self seed profusely. Division is usually needed every couple of years, as this is considered an invasive plant, but can be transplanted very easily. Lamb's Ear is best used as a ground cover or border. If using for a border, it will need to be kept in bounds. Also, a great perk is this plant is both drought and deer resistant. Maintenance is very little, requiring only dead heading (for flowering type) and heavy mulching under the leaves. Lower leaves can sometimes become brown and tattered, but can be cleaned up, and the plant looks great again.

When you're out selecting new plants for the spring, pick up a Lamb's Ear, and give it a try!

REMAINING CLASS SCHEDULE

March 2 nd	Plant Disease (Chapter 4)
March 9	Home Fruit & Nut Production (Chapter 5)
March 16	Vegetable Gardening (Chapter 8)
March 23	Propagation and Composting (Chapter 1)
March 30	Lawn and Turfgrass (Chapter 8)
April 20	Meet at Extension Office, 911 Room. Intro/Q&A, Tour Extension Office, meet Staff, review volunteer requirements for office. Presentation on volunteer Hours, time sheets, etc., any other housekeeping – ending up at Go Texan Building for lunch.

Contributed by Kathy Laughlin



APHIDS

Identification: These pear-shaped 1/10th to 1/2 inch long insects are also called plant lice and are not fussy as to which plants they infest. They can be green, yellow or black. They are usually found on the underneath side of leaves with over 4,000 species identified at present. If you see an aphid that looks swollen and somewhat metallic or is a dull brown or black, it is called a "mummy" and has been invaded by a parasitic wasp. It is best to leave it alone so that the larvae can fully develop.

General Information:

You can find aphids on shrubs, potted plants, all garden plants and even trees. They will cause plant stunting, wilting, yellowing and will eventually kill the plant. They prefer the tender tips, buds and stems of most plants. They insert their piercing mouth into the plant stem or leaves and proceed to suck out the sap from the plant and deposit honeydew, which attracts other insects. Their nutrition is mainly nitrogen and if you use a high nitrogen fertilizer, it will attract them. Aphids usually appear in the fall. They tend to transmit a number of diseases and are a serious threat in most gardens. If you see ants traveling up and down a plant, they are probably harvesting the honeydew from the aphids. Predators that eat aphids include ladybugs, lacewings, daddy longlegs, and parasitic wasps (Aphidius wasp).

Beneficial insects that will kill aphids can be used in a greenhouse and raised by placing some aphid-infested leaves in a plastic bag, making sure that the aphids are still on the leaves. In a few days the beneficial larvae will emerge and can be harvested with the tip of a small paintbrush while they are crawling about inside the bag. They can then be released inside the greenhouse to eliminate the aphid problem.

1001 All-Natural Secrets to PEST CONTROL By Dr. Myles H. Bader

PAPYRUS

Papyrus, *Cyperus papyrus*, is a plant which has been used by man for thousands of years. Not only was it used in a form of paper production, but the reed was also used as a raw material in the manufacture of boats, furniture, baskets, utensils and rope. The root has been used for food, medicine and perfume. It is believed that papyrus has been used for paper making since 4000 B.C... Actual remains of papyrus can be dated to 2600 B.C.

C. papyrus is in the sedge family of plants. It is native to Africa and grew along the Nile River. It grows to 10 feet in height and does well in sun or partial shade. It is an attractive ornamental often used today in bog gardens. At one time it was almost extinct in Egypt. It was reintroduced by Dr. Hassan Ragab when he became interested in reproducing ancient methods of papyrus making and restoring a part of Egypt's ancient heritage.

With the invention of papyrus, a lightweight and portable recording material, it was no longer necessary to record information on stone or clay tablets. Papyrus could be rolled into scrolls and took up less space than a stack of stone or clay tablets. Papyrus became one of ancient Egypt's major exports. It fell out of common use when the Arabs introduced the pulp method of paper making. Although pulp paper was not as durable as papyrus, it was cheaper and easier to make.

Today the manufacture of papyrus is carried on by numerous businesses, some of which serve the tourist industry. In these establishments reproductions of ancient Egyptian tomb murals are hand painted onto papyrus and informative

demonstrations are presented which show just how papyrus is made.



Here we see a gentleman holding a stem of papyrus before the plant is processed. The inner portion of the stem is sliced into very thin and long slices. These are pounded and then soaked in water. Several days later a series of overlapping strips are laid down one direction. Then a second series of strips is laid on those in a perpendicular direction. Pressure is applied over a period of days which flattens and fuses the fibers together. When dried, the resulting sheet of papyrus is used as a base for script or painting.

by Sandra Williams