



HOE! HOE! HOE!
Grimes County Master Gardeners Newsletter
*Winner of the Texas Master Gardener Association
 2nd Place Newsletter Award 2006*

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4, April 2011

ON THE CALENDAR April/May 2011

- April 1,2,3** Plant sale at Bogarts, Navasota
- April 5** A&M Garden Club Flower Show
- Apr 12** GCMG evening meeting at home of Janeth Nevill
- April 23** Household Hazardous Waste, TAMU Services building 3380 University Drive E. 7.00 am- 2.00 pm.
- Apr 27-29** TMGA State Conference
- Apr 30** Navasota Garden Club Homes Tour
- May 1** Navasota Garden Club Homes Tour
- May 10** GCMG Field Trip to Tyler Rose Gardens
- May 14** GCMG Spring Seminar

March 22nd Workday



A shirt, not a kite!



Planting the new red crape myrtle



Flowers looking good!



Why are photos of gardeners always rear to the fore???

Officers, 2011

- President: Jennifer Corzine
- Vice President: Alvie Vesperman
- Treasurer: Barbara Szymczak
- Secretary: Helen Quinn

Committee Chairs

- Go Texan Beds: Mike Arden
- Communications: Helen Quinn
- Children's: Kathy Laughlin
- Admin: Sandra Williams
- Class: Jennifer Corzine
- Plant Texas w/wildflowers: Edmond McGee
Tesa Silva
- Co-op: Fred Vesperman
- Time: Kathy Denning
- Anderson Beautification: Janeth Nevill/
Barbara Szymczak

- Publicity: Peggy Sloan
- Fundraiser: Linda Jolly
- Awards/Social: Connie Arden

Texas AgriLife Extension:

- Shane Jennings: MG Coordinator
 - Sandra Curl: Secretary
- *****

Newsletter Editor:

- Helen Quinn
- Articles, photos and other Information due by 27th of each month.
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VEGETABLE PLANTING GUIDE

APRIL

1/20-4/15 – Mustard
1/15-4/20 – Turnips
1/25-3/5 Peas (Edible Pod)
1/25-5/5 – Radish
3/10-5/5 - Green Beans
3/10 – 4/10 – Lima Beans
3/10-5/5 – Pinto Beans
3/5-5/5 – Sweet Corn
3/20-6/15 – Cucumber
3/25–6/10 – Eggplant
3/20-4/30 – Celery
2/1-4/20 – Swiss Chard
3/25-5/21 – Lettuce, Romaine
1/20-4/15 – Mustard
1/15-4/20 – Turnips
4/5-6/15 – Peas, Southern
4/5-6/15 – Peppers
1/25-5/5 – Radish
3/15-6/15 – Squash, Summer & Winter
3/5-4/20 - Tomatoes



ACORN SQUASH RECIPE

Here's a quick and easy way to use your Acorn (or other winter) Squash:

Preheat oven to 400F

Cut squash in half, remove seeds & strings. Place upside down in a shallow pan with ¼" water.

Bake 35 minutes. Turn squash over, sprinkle lightly with salt, add 1 TBSP Helen's Orange Marmalade and 1 Tsp butter. Spoon mix over edge.

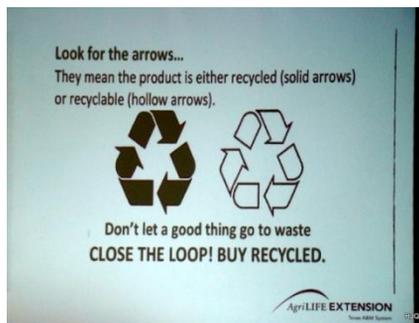
Place under broiler 5 minutes or until lightly browned.

Summer vs Winter Squash

Summer and Winter Squash are planted at the same time (3/15-6/15 in our area). Winter refers to the fact that they are usually hard skinned and keep well into winter.

GREAT PROGRAM ON RECYCLING AT OUR MARCH MEETING

by Alvie Vesperman



Grimes County Fair June 4 – 11, 2011

Anyone wishing to enter plants in the Horticulture Division at the County Fair must be in possession of such at least 3 months prior to show. That means by March 1st (or March 4th if you want to be precise.) All entries must be in good condition, free from dirt, disease, and insects, and pots should be squeaky clean!!

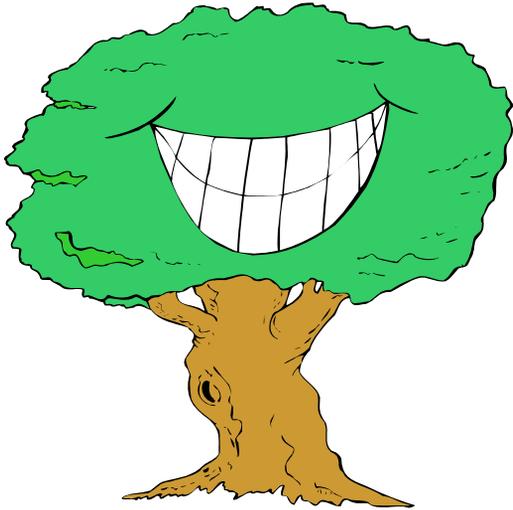
Plant categories are:

- Class 39 Container Plants (ex. Cactus, Fern, Violets, etc.)
- Class 40 Terrariums
- Class 41 Hanging Baskets
- Class 42 Cut Flowers
- Class 43 Herbs
- Class 44 Miscellaneous (one item other than those listed)

For details of other classes in Creative Arts & Living Division, check the website grimescountyfair.com, or the Fair Book at the Extension Office.

GCMG 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. Two field trips are planned annually, and two evening meetings held at members' homes to enable members who work to participate.



SMILE GARDEN

Submitted by Connie Arden

Smiling is the beginning of laughter.....plant some smile seeds to grow into laughter and reap blossoms of positive physical, mental, and social benefits.

In honor of April showers here are a few chuckles:

- God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done (there must be lots of messy households in Grimes County considering the drought!)
- Gardening requires lots of water----most of it in the form of perspiration.
- If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?.....Pilgrims.
- When do monkeys fall from the sky?.....during Ape-ril showers!
- What do you call it when it rains chickens and ducks.....FOWL weather.

Two roses get 'Earth-Kind' designation

Two long-established roses have earned Earth-Kind distinction for their beauty, fragrance and ease of maintenance, said Dr. Steve George, Texas AgriLife Extension Service horticulturist in Dallas.

The Monsieur Tillier and Mrs. Dudley Cross varieties were named Earth-Kind Roses for 2011 by a team of horticulturists with AgriLife Extension, an agency of the Texas A&M University System, George said. Only 23 roses hold the distinction.

"Though very different, both roses are gorgeous," he said.

Monsieur Tillier, released in 1891, is classified a "tea" rose and grows to about 7 by 6 feet, George said. It has a double blossom, is orange-pink and a repeat bloomer.

"The orange-pink color of its blossoms provides a color not often seen in other roses," George said. "The blossoms are packed with fragrant petals. This plant gets large so it's best used at the back of the flower bed. It makes

an excellent large hedge."

Mrs. Dudley Cross, released in 1907, is also a tea rose and grows to about 5-by-5 feet, he said. Its blossom's coloring is a yellow and pink blend, and it too is a repeat bloomer.

"One of my all-time favorite landscape roses, it is a very long-lived, compact, healthy bush with beautiful, moderately fragrant blossoms," he said. "And, as an added bonus, this plant is nearly thornless."

Mrs. Dudley Cross is so outstanding that it is also being named the Earth-Kind Rose of the Year for 2011, he added.

There is much more to these roses than just good looks, George said. Earth-Kind Roses are robust and thrive in tough conditions.

Grown and evaluated for more than eight years on average, the roses are not fertilized or pruned when tested. They are not treated with pesticides, and are watered far less than other roses. They also are grown on their own roots, as opposed to

those grafted onto other plants. This process selects roses that are easy to grow and maintain, he said.

To be Earth-Kind, a rose must have received the designation from AgriLife Extension. Earth-Kind is a registered trademark of AgriLife Extension.

"These winners of the prestigious Earth-Kind designation are long-lived, tolerant of most any soil and are so environmentally responsible that in most areas almost never will you need to apply harsh pesticides or even commercial fertilizer,"

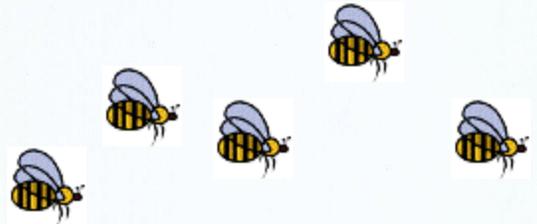
George said.

"These are truly roses with which anyone can be highly successful."

A list and descriptions of all Earth-Kind Roses can be found at <http://earthkindroses.tamu.edu>.

George and the team of Earth-Kind rose evaluators offer growing tips:

- The roses should be planted where they receive at least eight hours of direct sunlight daily.
- Their location should allow for good airflow over the leaves.



Kathleen Flick found the above article on the newest Earth-Kind roses in a recent issue of the Brenham Banner, author unknown. The Earth-Kind family is growing every year, and for the most up to date information it is good to check the website : aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/roses



Mrs. Dudley Cross – photo from Roseinfo.com



Monsieur Tillier – photo from Antiqueroseemporium.com



Well, we may have a new imported, invasive pest. The good news is that the control should be easy – and of course it's organic. Officially known as the brown marmorated stink bug, sightings of the pest have been reported in 33 states, an increase of eight states since last fall, plus listeners reported on my radio show this past weekend that the insects are in Texas. The National Pest Management Association warned homeowners this week that the bugs' growing populations are likely to be large. First identified in the USA in the late 1990s in Allentown, PA, these Asian bugs have few natural predators in the U.S. because native enemies do not seem to recognize them as prey. A tiny paWell, we may have a new imported, invasive pest. The good news is that the control should be easy – and of course it's organic.

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A tiny parasitic wasp from Asia known as a Trissolcus wasp - a bug smaller than a gnat - is showing promise as a possible biological control. This wasp, which is a natural enemy of the brown marmorated stink bug in Asia, might be able to control this pest by preying on brown marmorated stink bug eggs. Obviously, we want to be sure that any wasps that are released to control the brown marmorated stink bug will not create problems for other stink bugs, especially species that are beneficial.”

The Dirt Doctor Control is:

*For those bugs inside the house or office – vacuum them and throw in the trash.

*Outdoors, the prevention is to have an organic program and encourage birds, lizards, frogs, toads, beneficial insects and lots of good microbes. Trichogramma wasps should be released anyway for the control of various caterpillars, and they just might help with control of this pest.

*Outdoors the cure is to spray the killing organic pest control products. The options include orange oil-based products, neem products, Eco-EXEMPT and EcoSMART products.

Garrett Juice Plus with Bio Wash added is a great foliar feed that works as an effective repellent for various pests.

Submitted by John Milligan