



HOE! HOE! HOE!

Grimes County Master Gardeners Newsletter

*Winner of the Texas Master Gardener Association
2nd Place Newsletter Award 2006*

~~~~~ VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7, July 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  
Scholarship: Sandra Stuckey  
Admin: Vacant/Jennifer Corzine  
Class: Jennifer Corzine  
Painting Texas w/wildflowers: Edmond  
McGee  
Co-op: Fred Vesperman

### **Texas AgriLife Extension:**

Shane Jennings: MG Coordinator  
Sandra Cook: Secretary  
\*\*\*\*\*

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Helen Quinn  
Articles, photos and other  
Information due by 27<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
Send to:

[hortiq@gmail.com](mailto:hortiq@gmail.com)

### **Website:**

[www.grimesmastergardeners.org](http://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

### **New Project:**

Helping Ext./EYC with Beautification of Old Carver School . Watch for more new projects coming in June and ongoing.

We also participate in once-a-year activities such as Farm Bureau Ag Day, Senior Day and horticulture judging at the County Fair, Boy Scout programs, Courthouse rose beds. Suggestions for new projects are always Welcome for consideration by the Board.

**WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK –JOIN US! We also have a dedicated email address for gardening questions from the public : \_**

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

## VEGETABLE PLANTING GUIDE

July/August

Melons, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Tomatoes 7/15-7.31

Cucumber 7/20-8/15

Eggplant 7/15-7.31

Peas: Southern 7/15-8/31

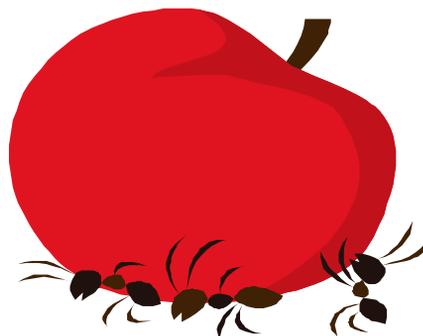
Edible Pod

Southern

Sweet Corn 7/15-8/20

Squash, S & W 7/15-8/20

Romaine Lettuce 6/1-8/31



Use row cover to help reduce heat and viral infection.

### NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

For the past three years, the last week in June has been designated “National Pollinator Week”. In belated observance of this, here are some tips to attract pollinators to your garden/yard.

#### Five Tips for Planting a Pollinator-Friendly Garden:

- 1. Don't use pesticides.** They kill the pollinators along with the pests.
- 2. Plant natives when possible.** Help support your native pollinators by planting the plants for which they have evolved to use most efficiently.
- 3. Add plants with different colors and shapes to your garden.** This ensures that a variety of Pollinators, from bees to beneficial wasps, to butterflies, will have a food source.
- 4. Plant in groupings.** This makes it easier for pollinators to find a plant they like and stay a while.
- 5. Try to plan so that you have several different plants blooming at all times.** This can be tricky, but if you plant a good selection of annuals, perennials, shrubs, and herbs, chances are good that you'll always have something in bloom.

#### GREAT PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

Anise Hyssop (Agastache)

Aster

Basil

Black Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia)

Calendula

Cosmos

Dill

Goldenrod (Solidago)

Joe Pye Weed

Lantana

Marigold

Mexican Sunflower (Tithonia)

Milkweed (Asclepias)

Mint

Purple Coneflower

Salvia

Sunflower

Verbena

Zinnia

## ON THE CALENDAR : July/August 2010

- July 13 - Regular monthly meeting, 9.00-10.00 Go Texan Building.  
10.00-11.00 Program Flora Williams Home Canning Instructional  
11.00-2.00 Home Canning – Hands-on (bring your own supplies)
- July 09 Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 8.00 Lions Building. Contact Shane Jennings for more information. 873-3097 ssjennings@ag.tamu.edu
- July 14 2.00-3.00 Final steps Home Canning for those who participated in Hands-on
- July 27 Tentative reschedule of Evening Social Meeting – details TBA
- Aug 07 TMGA Directors' Meeting 11.00 – 3.00 Forest Sci/Hort Building, TAMU
- Aug 10 GCMG Regular meeting. 9.00 am Go Texan Building. Program on Drip Irrigation by Martin Thomas.

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

### HOUSING FAIR

Master Gardeners had an informational booth at the Housing Fair sponsored by Prairie View Cooperative Extension Program, Texas Agrilife Extension Service and the City of Navasota on June 28<sup>th</sup> at The Navasota Center. There were presentations throughout the day, and several other Vendor booths. Our talented team of Kathy D, Kathy L, Connie, Jennifer, Carol & (almost) Linda. made centerpieces for the tables, to be eventually given as door prizes .



## COUNTY FAIR ACTIVITIES JUNE 2010

### Big Backyard: by Pam Schneider

These pictures were taken showing the GCMG participation at the Big Backyard display. The Master Gardeners did a display quiz on which plants represented animals by either sight, touch or name. There were Horse Reeds, Lambs' Ears, Hens and Chicks and the Zebra Plant. Each participant had to identify/match the colored name card with the plant and got a prize if they succeeded. The kid contestants were much more insightful than the adults! Our display was surrounded by art, jewelry, a pet therapy clown and capuchin monkey, reptile display interpretations, and beautiful animal babies like chicks, ducklings, rabbits, and ostriches.



### Senior Day: By Helen Quinn

At our booth on Senior Day we had quite a lot of questions about ailments of tomatoes, corn, etc., and people were quite interested in the butterfly/month looped slide show. Many said they had "just killed" this or that caterpillar, and had no idea what they would turn out to be! The weather was a problem, with reported tornadoes in the area, but still the Seniors turned out in force on "their day". Thanks to Sandra, Carol, Connie & Mike, Kathy L., Linda J., Jennifer for helping, and Barbara who was helping with the Registration Table.



## Grimes County Fair Judging – Mary Cadro

Saturday, June 5, 2010 several members of the Master Gardeners (Barbara Szymczak, Janeth Nevill, Vicky Gergini, Jennifer Corzine and myself) showed up at Fairgrounds to help with the check in of County Horticulture/Creative Art Projects. There were many entries such as photography, collections, sewing, arts and crafts and it took about 2 hours to get all checked in. All projects were sorted and placed in the various sections in order to be judged. At 1 o'clock the judging began with a new addition to our judging team my mom (Frances Cross) who I brought in to help judge the Baked entries because no other gardener was able to take on the task. As you can imagine I have done this before and you think it will be a delicious treat to taste all of these wonderful deserts but think again. My Mom never wants to see another cake, cookie or anything remotely related to any desert for a long time. Well Kathy, Vicki and Sandra Williams judged the various vegetables submitted by the county residents and all were very impressed with the nice entries. Next, on to the plants and then the preserves, it was very interesting to see the various entries and was very hard to pick first place. I want to thank each of you for your help this year and to think about what you might want to enter next year or just help out and judge.



### **KUDZU – the plant that ate the South**

Recent studies by a team of US-based researchers have shown that Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*), a fast growing invasive plant spreading through the south-eastern US, has the potential to increase low-level ozone pollution levels.

As reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers have found that nitric oxide (NO) emissions, a component in the formation of ozone, doubled in soils where the invasive kudzu was present. The deep-rooted vine, native to Asia, was introduced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century to help control soil erosion. Kudzu is a member of the pea family, and is therefore a “nitrogen fixing” plant. It has semi-woody stems that can extend to 30m in length. It is now becoming established and invasive in Europe, affecting parts of Italy and Switzerland. It can grow quickly – up to 26 cm a day – because it concentrates on extending the growth shoots rather than expending energy on developing support systems of its own. It simply uses the existing habitat instead, climbing all over and smothering everything that lies in its path! Few plants can survive once smothered by kudzu, and small ecosystems could be radically altered, according to a 2007 report by the European Plant Protection Organization. If you see it, kill it! Don't let it get away from you because once those deep root networks become established, it is virtually impossible to eradicate.





# SMILE GARDEN

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE ARDEN

Vegetable JOKES

**Q. Why did the gardener need a cork?**

*A. His garden sprung a leek.*

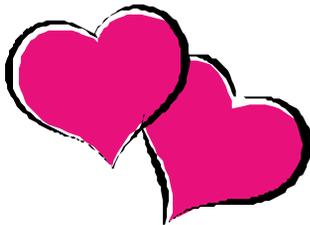


**Q. Why did the gardener quit?**

*A. His celery wasn't high enough.*



**Q. Why did the tomato and the corn fall in love?**



*A. He whispered sweet nothings into her ear.*

**Q. What is a gardener's favorite novel?**

*A. War & Peas.*

SMILING IS THE BEGINNING OF LAUGHTER.....PLANT SOME SMILE SEEDS TO GROW INTO LAUGHTER AND REAP BLOSSOMS OF POSITIVE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND SOCIAL BENEFITS.