



HOE! HOE! HOE!

Grimes County Master Gardeners Newsletter

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

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 10 October 2011

ON THE CALENDAR Oct/Nov 2011

- Oct 11 6.00pm Evening Social at Marguerite Corbello's details/map tba. Bring dish to share, & libation of your choice.**
- Oct 31 6.00pm Treats on the Street, downtown Navasota**
- Nov 6 End of Daylight Savings Time – set your clocks back!**
- Nov 8 9.00am GCMG Monthly meeting, Go Texan Building, Fairgrounds. Program tba**
- Nov 30 Average first frost date for Grimes County**

Officers, 2011

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

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Go Texan Landscaping: Mike Arden
Communications: Helen Quinn
Children's: Kathy Laughlin
Admin: Sandra Williams
Class: Jennifer Corzine/Kathy Laughlin
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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Fall Seminar : John Smith, Marty Thomas, Mary Kay Hicks presenters



Alvie's great program on Fall Gardening at our September meeting

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.

VEGETABLE PLANTING GUIDE

OCTOBER



| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Beet | 9/01 - 10/20 |
| Broccoli * | 9/10 - 11/15 |
| Brussels Sprouts* | 9/10 - 11/05 |
| Cabbage* | 9/15 - 12/31 |
| Chinese Cabbage | 9/01 - 10/15 |
| Carrot | 9/15 - 12/31 |
| Cauliflower* | 9/20 - 10/31 |
| Kohlrabi | 9/20 - 11/30 |
| Lettuce, leaf | 9/15 - 11/30 |
| Mustard | 9/01 - 11/15 |
| Spinach | 9/05 - 10/25 |
| Turnip | 9/01 - 11/20 |
| Radish | 9/01 - 11/30 |

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

Fresh is best!

Have you ever wondered how far a vegetable has traveled since it was picked fresh, how long it was in transit, and how much of the nutritional value was lost? Here's an excerpt from "Spade, Skirret and Parsnip", one of my favourite veggie books:

Long journey times for vegetables are nothing new either. The Emperor Tiberius is said to have had his parsnips imported to Rome from the banks of the Rhine in Germany. And before it was removed because of the "scurrility, clamour and nuisance of the gardeners and their servants", the fourteenth century market near London's St. Paul's, where the "gardeners of earls, barons, bishops and citizens sold their produce", was provisioned by foot, sail power and the plodding packhorse. The ridgeways, drove roads and salt ways of England carried a steady traffic of cabbage-mongers, garlic-mongers and leek-mongers heading for market with baskets and trays of vegetables for sale. During the hungry gap between the end of winter and the harvesting of their first vegetables, the poor were entitled by law to pick green peas in the field for their own consumption: hucksters were regularly reprimanded for trying to sell their pickings at market. A more reliable supplier was the local Monastery garden, until Henry VIII sequestered the wealth of the monasteries and redistributed it amongst his friends.

Vegetables were traded from country to country too. Vegetables had been shipped from France and The Low Countries across to England as early as the 1300s. One of the popular destinations was the old Westminster 'convent' garden, now Covent Garden, and one of several markets that claimed to be London's larder.

As you see, long distance vegetable trucking is nothing new, although the distances in the USA are far greater! If you have never grown your own vegetables, start now! And if not now, because of the lack of rain, it is not too soon to start making your New Year's Resolutions!!

2012 CLASS

Will start February 21, and will run every Tuesday 8.30-12.30 through May 15 at the Go Texan Building, Grimes County Fairgrounds. Speakers are already confirmed. Tell all your family, friends and neighbors, and be watching for more information as plans develop!

SCHEDULE FOR 2012 CLASS

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| February 21 | Jayla Fry | MG Program/EarthKind Landscaping |
| February 28 | Lisa Whittlesey | Plant Growth & Development |
| March 6 | Sam Feagley | Soil, Water & Plant Nutrients |
| March 13 | Tom Leroy | Vegetable Gardening |
| March 20 | Bart Drees | Entomology |
| March 27 | Carlos Bogran | Plant Health |
| April 3 | David Chalmers | Lawns & Turfgrass |
| April 10 | Tom Leroy | Home Fruit & Nut Production |
| April 17 | Ann Wheeler | Herbs |
| April 24 | Martin Thomas | Landscape Horticulture |
| May 1 | Helen Quinn | Propagation |
| May 8 | Sharon Murry | Composting |
| | Stuckeys | Rainwater Harvesting |
| May 15 | Shane Jennings | Communications/General |
| | MGs | Open discussion/program/lunch |

The flyer and application forms are available on our website txmg.org/grimes, at local Businesses, and at the Grimes County AgriLife Extension Office on Judson Street, Navasota.

A Pretty Pest

Here's a plant that is showing off its bright red berries everywhere now, not to be confused with the viciously thorny Smilax. The following was taken from a website affiliated with the University of Texas, Austin www.wildflower.org – a good source for information on native plants. If anyone wants a start, come on over!!! The photo is of berries in my yard – a succulent feast for the hungry birds.



***Cocculus carolinus* (L.)**

Carolina snailseed, Carolina coralbead, Carolina moonseed, Red berried moonseed, Carolina red berried moonseed

Menispermaceae (Moonseed Family)

USDA Symbol: COCA

USDA Native Status: Native to U.S.

A scrambling or climbing vine, 3-15 ft. long, with twining stems and ovate to somewhat heart-shaped leaves. Foliage is medium- to yellow-green, downy beneath, tardily deciduous to semi-evergreen in the South. Flowers small, greenish, male and female on different plants, both in loose lateral and terminal clusters, the male branched, the female unbranched, appearing from June to August. Fruit fleshy, bright red, 1/4 inch or more in diameter from Sept. to Nov. in drooping, grape-like clusters. Seed coiled, suggesting a snail.

This vine is a strong grower and should be used where its vigorous spreading nature would be appreciated. It may not be wise to move it from its native range if spreading is a concern. Once root established, it can be difficult to remove, so plant wisely.

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The underground root of this vine can stretch for fifty feet or more, and branches out in all directions. It is fairly easy to pull up where you can find it, but it is sometimes difficult to find!  
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LATIN WORD OF THE MONTH:

Text reproduced courtesy of Dave's
Garden Educator's newsletter



Quercus (Pronounced: KWER-kus)

Quercus is the ancient Latin name for Oak trees, symbolizing strength. Oaks are the national trees of several nations including England, Estonia, France, Germany, the United States and Wales.

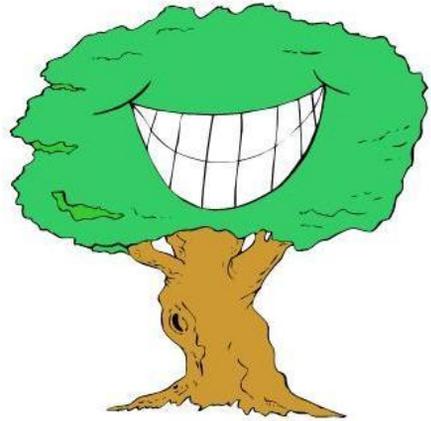
In ancient times, oak trees were sacred to the gods Jupiter and Thor. The Bible refers to oak trees in stories of Jacob and Joshua. In the mid 400s BC, Heroditus wrote that oak trees contained the gift of prophecy within their boughs.

Oak trees are hardwood trees native to the northern hemisphere; hundreds of species are known to exist. There are both deciduous and evergreen species growing from cold latitudes to the tropical regions of Asia, Europe and North America.

In 1911, John Uri Lloyd described the astringency of the bark of white oak, and its use in dysentery and hemorrhages. The acorns (which is from the Old English, meaning fruit or berry) have been used for food by man and animals for centuries.

In the late 1800s, the pithy quote "Mighty oaks from little acorns grov" first appeared in a U.S. newspaper.





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.

Some Famous Quotes From Famous People.....

*** "I had a rose named after me and was very flattered, but I was NOT pleased to read the description in the catalog: 'no good in a bed, but fine against a wall' ".*

Eleanor Roosevelt

*** "What this country needs is dirtier fingernails and cleaner minds".*

Will Rogers

*** "Gardens are not made by singing "Oh, how beautiful," and sitting in the shade".*

Rudyard Kipling