



## Bulbs and Perennials

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October through early November is a great month to plant spring-blooming bulbs in our area. These flowering bulbs will provide early color in your garden before your other perennials begin their spring blooming. It's also a good time to divide bulbs and transplant perennials. Look at your garden and see if some of them are producing at peak or are they not getting the right conditions? Remember the saying, "*right plant for the right place.*" If your perennials are not performing, then try transplanting them to a new area this month. This will give them all winter to

put down roots and "spring" back into action next year. Take advantage of the fall plant sales in our area as they have extensive selections of perennials.



As for bulbs, there are several types that can be planted now, such as **Day Lilies, Gladiola, Amaryllis, Calla Lilies, Daffodils, Narcissus, Dutch Iris, Snowflakes.** These bulbs tend to naturalize which means they come back year after year. If they naturalize well then they should increase in size each year which may require thinning at some point. After blooming it is best not remove the mature foliage until it begins to turn yellow.

Two bulbs, **Hyacinth** and **Tulips**,

cannot be planted at this time as they require at least 6 - 8 weeks of refrigeration or chill time. However, **now** is the time to purchase them before supplies run out with nurseries or catalog stores. If pre-chilled now, then they will be ready to plant in early January with blooming in March. Beware, if you store these bulbs in your refrigerator do not leave them near apples which emits a gas that will cause the bulbs to be deformed. Also, tulips are annuals in this area so once they have bloomed you will want to discard and start over again next year.



Planting Requirements: Plant in well-drained soil in a sunny location. Best planted in groupings of at least 3 to 5. Plant with the pointy-end up in a mix of compost and fertilizer at the base of the bulb. Research planting depth for each bulb type. Cover and mulch 3-4". Water well after planting but not to the point of being soggy as they will rot.

### Fall Maintenance:

- Divide perennials and transplant wood ferns, cannas, daisies, bearded irises, and day-lilies.
- Sow wildflower seeds in late October.
- Use pre-emergence weed control for lawns.
- Purchase and plant woody ornamental plants—stop pruning fruit trees.

## Vegetable Seed Viability

Do you have older seeds that are not packaged or labeled with a “use-by” date? Below is a guide for vegetable seed viability.



1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
Onion	Corn, sweet	Asparagus	Beet	Collards
Parsley	Leek	Bean	Cabbage	Cucumber
Parsnip	Okra	Broccoli	Cauliflower	Endive
	Pepper	Carrot	Chard, Swiss	Muskmelon
		Celery	Eggplant	Radish
		Kohlrabi	Fennel	
		Pea	Kale	
		Spinach	Mustard	
			Pumpkin	
			Rutabaga	
			Squash	
			Tomato	

**“And All at Once, Summer Collapsed into Fall.”**

## Herbs

Fall means a lot less heat stress for herbs. Annuals that have been cut back will show new growth. But there are a few herbs that do not die out during fall and winter. **Rosemary, oregano and thyme** are all reliable growers during the cooler months. There are also several cool weather annuals that can be planted in October: **dill, cilantro, parsley, chamomile, and calendula.**

You can also try growing herbs inside during winter months but if you don't want to

bother then start harvesting and preserving your summer herbs before the first frost sets in.





## *Beneficial Garden Insect Series—Dragonflies*



Dragonflies are like little jeweled fighter jets zipping back and forth across a meadow or pond. With extraordinary sight and speed, they are terrific hunters of other insects and a great addition to any garden or pond. In Texas there are 160 species, almost half of the identified 327 species in North America. They come in all sizes and colors and are cousins to the smaller damselfly which are both from the same insect order of *Odonata*. The difference is that dragonflies have eyes touching on top of their heads with large abdomens while damselflies have separated eyes and elongated, delicate bodies.

It is hard to photograph adult dragonflies because they are almost always in constant motion flying up to speeds of 35 miles per hour. If one lands you see that their wings stay open while a damselflies' wings will be closed.

Dragonflies mate in a wheel formation near water. The female will lay her eggs on a plant in or near water. After

about 7-9 days the eggs will hatch into nymphs. At this stage they are voracious eaters of aquatic life such as mosquitos, tiny fish and tadpoles. Depending upon the species they may go through 10-20 molts over a time of 3 to 6 months. In their final stage, they will climb onto a vertical plant stem and molt into their adult bodies with new wings. Again, depending upon the species, they may only live 2 to 3 months as long as long as a few years. Many adults will fly away to find other wetland areas which may contribute to their success as an evolutionary creature. There are fossilized remains of giant dragonfly ancestors that have been dated as far back as 300 million years ago.

One interesting fact is that once captured as a specimen their beautiful jeweled colors dim and become very dull. So far scientists are looking for better ways to preserve them, but for now the best way to capture their full beauty is through photography.

If you want to attract more dragonflies to your gardens then you will need to add some kind of water feature, whether it's a pond, a water garden or improved wetlands.



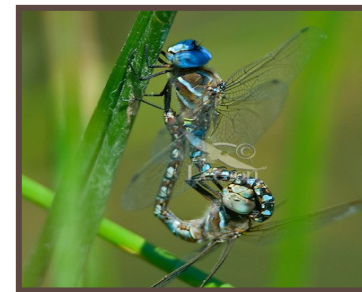
*Black Saddlebags Dragonfly*



*Red Saddlebags Dragonfly*



*Damselfly*



*Blue Eyed Darners Mating*




*Dragonfly Nymph*

## Schedule of Events

# October 2019

- Oct 2: Brazos Master Gardeners, “Keys to Successful Tree Planting”, 12:00—1:00, Brazos County Extension Office, Bryan
- Oct 3: The Arbor Gate, “Oct 1st: New Year’s Day for Herbs”, 10:00—11:00, Tomball
- Oct 5: The Arbor Gate, “Pruning, Shaping, & Harvesting Herbs; 10:00—11:00, Tomball
- Oct 5: Montgomery Master Gardeners, “2019 Fall Plant Sale”, 9:00—12:00 Conroe
- Oct 8: Grimes County Master Gardeners Monthly Meeting, 9:00—11:00, Court Annex Building, Navasota
- Oct 9: The Arbor Gate, “The Smells that Make you Smile”, 12:00—1:00, Tomball
- Oct 11,12,13: SHSU Plant/Soil Sciences Club, “Fall Plant Sale; 8:00—12:00, Huntsville
- Oct 12: The Arbor Gate, “Gunter’s Heirloom Vegetables”, 9:00—12:00, Tomball
- Oct 12: The Arbor Gate, “Fall and Winter Fruit Program”, 10:00—11:00, Tomball
- Oct 13: The Arbor Gate, “Bee Forum”, 10:00—11:00, Tomball

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 ★	3 ★	4	5 
6	7	8 ★	9 ★	10	11 ★	12 ★
13 ★	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## GCMG Bake Sale: Oct 5th

**Calling All Bakers!** We need your baked goods for the upcoming fall bake sale at the Navasota Walmart on October 5th. Whole cakes and pies would be appreciated. Volunteers and baked goods should arrive before the start time of 9:00 a.m.

## Landscape Design School Series XXVI, Course IV

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: Get a discount by registering before January 1, 2020**

- **Date:** February 24-25, 2020
- **Hours:** Monday (9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.); Tuesday (9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.)
- **Location:** George Bush Presidential Library, College Station
- **Fee:** Tuition/Lunch Fee \$135 by January 1, 2020  
Tuition/Lunch Fee \$145 by February 1, 2020  
Tuition/Lunch Fee \$165 **after** February 1, 2020
- Reference Book (\$40); “Stewards of the Land” **must be ordered before February 1, 2020**
- **Registration Form:** Forms may be obtained from [aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/](http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/)

**Schedule of Events  
(cont'd)**

- Oct 15: Grimes County Master Gardeners, “Monthly Garden Workday”, 8:00—10:00, County Extension Office, Navasota
- Oct 15: Brazos Master Gardeners, “Magnificent Superstar Blooms for your Spring Garden”, 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m., Lick Creek Nature Center, College Station
- Oct 17: The Arbor Gate, “Attracting Bluebirds to the Garden”, 10:00—11:00, Tomball
- Oct 19: Brazos Master Gardeners, “Gardening for Beginners”, 10:00—11:00, Clara Mounce Public Library, Bryan
- Oct 19: The Arbor Gate, “Bulbs for the Southern Garden”, 10:00—11:00; Tomball
- Oct 22 Brazos Master Gardeners, “Perennial Garden Mums”, 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., Brazos Center, Bryan
- Oct 23: The Arbor Gate, “What’s Eating You? Eating to Change Your Mood”, 12:00—1:00, Tomball
- Oct 24: The Arbor Gate, “Companion Planting in the Vegetable Garden”, 10:00—11:00, Tomball
- Oct 26, The Arbor Gate, “Alternatives to Over Used Trees and Shrubs in the Landscape”, 10:00—11:00, Tomball

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## Garden Work-Day—October 15th



Your help is needed! As we work our way into fall we will need to pick up the pace on our work at the County Extension Office Garden. We will be prepping for cool season planting next month. Start time: 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

## Fall Seminar —Oct 19th



Grimes County Master Gardeners will be offering a **Fall Seminar** on **October 19th**, 10:00 AM, at King Oaks Fishing Pond Pavilion. The program will include landscaping for homeowners, tree planting, and fall gardening. Roses from the Antique Rose Emporium will be offered for sale for both attendees and master gardeners. To volunteer, please contact Herb Abraham at [herbabraham@gmail.com](mailto:herbabraham@gmail.com).

## “Trunk or Treat”: Oct 26th



**Get out your broomsticks!** Once again our Gardening Witches will be at the Anderson Trunk or Treat on Saturday, **October 26th**. If you want to have a super fun time with the kids please join us - you don’t have to dress up but it’s more if you do! Set-up time is 5:00 p.m.

## *In Memoriam—Alice Virginia Bonds-Kocian*



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Alice Virginia Bonds-Kocian, who passed away on September 18, 2019, leaving to mourn family and friends. She fought a valiant fight against her illness with courage and faith, never giving up, never giving in, and surprising all by her comebacks.

Alice became a Grimes County Master Gardener in 2013, finishing all of her requirements before her other classmates. This typifies Alice in a nutshell. Organized, funny and candid. She worked a great deal for the group in bake sales, children’s programs, and hosting the business meetings. She was an avid gardener with a passion for fruit trees, ornamentals, and roses. She canned whenever she could and ended up being an authority on the process. She engaged her grandchildren and great-grandchildren in gardening activities by setting up projects so they could continue without her. She will be dearly missed by all her friends at Master Gardeners.

## *Congratulations to our Newest Members!* *Class of 2019*



Kay Stewart Douglas receiving her Master Gardener Certificate from Cathey Primeaux Hardeman



Vicki Wood receiving her Master Gardener Certificate from Cathey Primeaux Hardeman



# Fall Social - September 14, 2019



The Hosts: Kimberly & Bernie Hertan



Cathey & Sparky Hardeman with Linda & Tom Jarvis



Thom and Ann Dewitt with Mom



A great pot luck meal!



Alvie & Fred Vesperman



Peggy Sloan, Marti Luedtke, Cathey Hardeman, Martha Brogdon, Vicki Wood

# Texas Master Gardeners

203 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Navasota, Texas 77868

Website: [txmg.org/grimes](http://txmg.org/grimes)



## Grimes County Master Gardeners

Please send submissions and photos by the  
20th of each month to: [pwparmley@gmail.com](mailto:pwparmley@gmail.com)



*Star of the Republic*

### 2019 Board of Directors

- President.....Cathey Hardeman
- Vice President .....Sharon Murry
- Secretary .....Paula Parmley
- Treasurer .....Dia Copeland

### 2019 Committees/ Chairs

- Administration .....Herb Abraham
- Advertising/Publicity .....Peggy Sloan
- Auditing.....Stephanie Cunningham/Jena Jackson
- Communications .....Georgia Abraham
- Community Garden.....Cathey Hardeman, Jamie Bruns, Paula Parmley
- Co-op.....Fred Vesperman
- Facebook.....Jamie Bruns
- Fair Judging.....Marti Luedtke
- Fundraising .....Carol Garnet
- Historian.....Sharon Murry
- Master Gardener Class Coordination .....Herb Abraham
- Newsletter .....Paula Parmley
- Nominating.....Carol Garnet
- Social Awards .....Connie Arden
- Timekeeping .....Martha Brogdon