



Late Summer Rose Care



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In August, the high heat causes roses to start languishing with fewer blooms, less color, and smaller growth. By mid-August, a little maintenance will help your roses start producing beautiful blooms again once the temperatures cool off. What steps should you take now to get more blooms in the fall?

Prune: Prune roses back as much as 25% to help push new blooms. This will mean you will be cutting off some current blooms and buds, but in the long run, this will help produce more roses in the fall. If you see any diseased leaves such as black spot, prune those off as well.

Fertilize: Fertilize around the drip line of each bush with specialized rose fertilizer or straight nitrogen products. If you don't see new growth by the first week of September, make a second application.

Water: Water the fertilizer in deeply around the base of the rose, careful not to splash water on the leaves. Drip irrigation is the best solution for watering roses. Don't overwater but keep the soil moist.

Mulch: Add an additional 2 to 4 inches of mulch around the roses to reduce moisture loss and keep weeds down.

Insects: Be alert to any insect pests and use the mildest and least toxic pesticide to control them.

Once the weather cools off in the fall, you should see your roses bounce back with a profusion of color and fragrance!

There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments!



UPCOMING EVENT

Grimes County Master Gardeners will be hosting a special presentation by **Gaye Hammond**, recognized rose expert.

When: Tuesday, August 10th, from 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Where: The Bluebell Room, The Navasota Center, 101 Stadium Drive, Navasota, Texas

Who: Open to the Public. No Charge

See flyer for more information on Page Four

Is it Poison Ivy?



Virginia Creeper



Poison Ivy



Peppervine

Before becoming a Texas Master Gardener I was convinced that all of my oak trees were infested with poison ivy vines. Each winter when the vines were dormant I would take sharp loppers and cut them at the base and pull them out of the trees.

Since then I've educated myself on those vines and guess what? They were NOT poison ivy vines but **Virginia creeper vines** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). Virginia creeper is very common in Grimes County with similar looking leaves and aerial rootlets. However, the primary difference between these vines is the shape and number of leaflets on a leaf. Virginia creeper has **five leaflets per leaf**, whereas poison ivy only has **three leaves, one on each side and one in**

the center. Poison ivy leaves are also shiny with smooth or slightly notched edges.

While Virginia creeper does not cause a reaction in humans, many people are allergic to poison ivy usually resulting in a very irritating and itchy rash.

Another vine that is also prevalent in Grimes County and often mistaken for poison ivy is **Peppervine**. Peppervine (*Ampelopsis arborea*) is a close relative to grapes. The leaves are very dark green and the shape resembles a holly leaf. The big difference is that peppervine produces grape-like berries starting in late August. These berries turn into clusters of blue-black grape-like fruit. Though delicious, if consumed most people get a weird tickle in the back of

their throat after eating. This tickle is actually due to tiny needles of calcium oxalate which are a defensive measure of the peppervine. Excessive consumption of calcium oxalate will result in chemical burns in your throat. If you are interested in picking and consuming peppervine berries, please research extensively first.

So back to poison ivy. If you are in doubt remember this saying: "Leaves of three, let it be".

Update—Zombie Trees



Picture from Texas A&M Forest Service

In several parts of Texas, people are starting to call the February freeze damaged trees "Zombie Trees". So, what is the latest from our specialists about these trees? The rule now is that if the tree has less than 25% foliage more than likely it is dying and won't make it. If it has more than 25%, then wait and see. It might have a chance to recover.

Quite a few of these trees are also starting to exhibit damaged, split bark which means the tree has vascular system damage. You can tap around the trunk of the tree 6 feet or below and if it sounds hollow then it's damaged.

Many arborists and specialists earlier in the year mentioned waiting until next spring to see if the trees might recover and leaf out normally. However, as more time goes by this seems unlikely for many of them.

Be aware if the tree is dead it will need to be removed to keep from being a safety hazard.

Vegetable Planting Guide for August

Take a look at the graph below to find which vegetables can be planted in our area now for a fall garden. Remember, most tomatoes take about 90 days to set fruit. Ninety days from August 1st is November 1st. The likelihood of frost in early November is slim but last year we experienced freezing temperatures two days before Thanksgiving.

	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
Bean, bush		8/15 - 9/15			
Bean, pole		8/10 - 9/10			
Corn, sweet	7/15 - 8/20				
Cucumber	7/20 - 8/15				
Garlic		8/10 - 10/20			
Chard, Swiss		8/20 - 11/15			
Mustard		8/20 - 11/15			
Turnip		8/20 - 11/20			
Peppers		8/1 - 9/15			
Potato, Irish		8/15 - 8/31			
Squash, summer	7/15 - 8/20				
Squash, winter	7/15 - 8/10				
Tomato		8/1 - 9/15			

Black Swallowtail Butterfly



This year I planted Bronze Fennel in a large planter which turned out to be the perfect plant host for Black Swallowtail Butterflies. In July, I

suddenly found 21 caterpillars and got extremely excited until the next day when I found 13! The day after, I found 3 and then none. I realized too late that the caterpillars ended up being a great food source for birds and lizards and I had done nothing to prevent them from being eaten.

Last week, I found two more caterpillars so I immediately purchased a butterfly net cage to protect them. Being a novice, I didn't secure the cage correctly and the next day it looked like all

were gone. I decided I had failed again until two days later I found a beautiful swallowtail pumping her wings for the first time. Her pale chrysalis was nearby and almost invisible to the eye.

So, what happens now? Black Swallowtails live for about two—three weeks and spend their time sipping nectar, pollinating and finding a mate to reproduce. When you realize that these precious insects go through four previous stages to get to this point is amazing but also bitter sweet.

Evidently, it's not hard to harvest Swallowtail eggs and let them do their stuff in an aquarium, as long as you keep the host plant with them for feeding. As we get closer to fall, many larva will overwinter until next spring.

Best host plants for swallowtails to plant in your garden or flowerbed: Parsley, Fennel, Dill, Bee Balm, Coneflower and Queen Ann's Lace.

Grimes County Master Gardeners

Presents

**“Low Care, Easy Care, Almost No Care Roses:
Earth-Kind and A.R.T.S. Trial Top Performers”**

(A.R.T.S. American Rose Trials for Sustainability)

With

Gaye Hammond, Houston Rose Society

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

10:00 AM

Navasota Center

101 Stadium Drive

Navasota, TX 77868

Public is Invited / No Charge



Gaye Hammond - Presenter

Past President, Houston Rose Society; Life Member/Patron, American Rose Society; Garden Writers Association; Rose Rosette Disease Expert

Recognized Expert on Roses in Texas



Grimes County Master Gardeners

(936) 873-3907

grimescountymastergardeners@gmail.com

Events

Grimes County Master Gardeners will have a special presentation by Gaye Hammond on **Tuesday, August 10th, 10:00 a.m., at the Navasota Center, Navasota.**

Monthly Garden Work Day: August 17th—8:00 a.m. at the Grimes County Extension Office.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, no in-person continuing education classes are available. Below are some virtual learning and webinars for this month.

August 2021

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				

GOT A GARDENING QUESTION?

Got a gardening problem or question?

Contact our Master Gardeners to get help: grimescountymastergardeners@gmail.com or call us at [936-873-3917](tel:936-873-3917).

A photo along with your question will help us with the answer.

Continuing Education and Events

- Aug 4: Gardening on the Gulf Coast, “**Lantana Varieties for The Gulf Coast Landscape**”, 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.,
- Aug 10: Urban Harvest, “**Top 10 Cool Weather Crops**” 10 a.m.—11 a.m. free, *Zoom Live Class by Invitation*
- Aug 10: Tarrant Regional Water District, “**Shad Gardening**”, 6:00 p.m. *Zoom Live Class*
- Aug 12: Grimes County Master Gardeners, **Kick-Off & Orientation 2021 Intern Class**, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- Aug 14: Urban Harvest, “**Basic Fruit Tree Care for Fall**”, 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m., \$20, Zoom Live Class
- Aug 17: Urban Harvest, “**Fall Gardening: Soil Prep & Technique**”, 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m., \$20, Zoom Live Class
- Aug 19: Home Grown Lecture Series, Harris County AgrLife, “**Fall Vegetable Gardening**”, 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Free
- Aug 19: Tarrant Regional Water District, “**Gardening with Ornamental Grass**”, 6:00 p.m.

Texas Master Gardeners

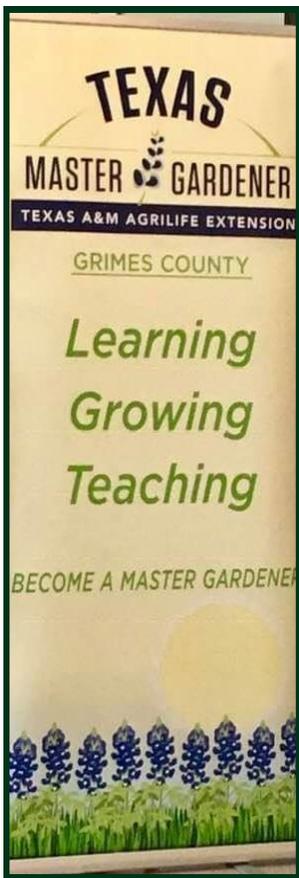
203 Veterans Memorial Drive
Navasota, Texas 77868

Website: txmg.org/grimes
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GrimesCountyMasterGardeners



Grimes County Master Gardeners

Please send submissions and photos by the 20th of each month to: pwparmley@gmail.com



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