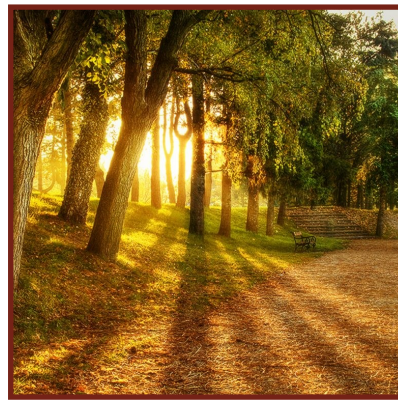




*That First Cool Morning* by Jena Jackson

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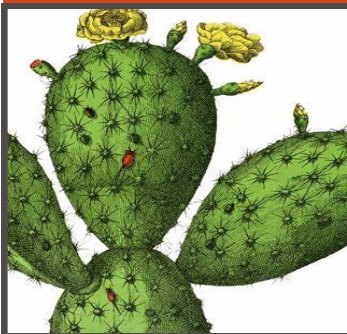
All gardeners crave spring, anticipate summer, and relish fall. Winter is used as a planning and recuperation time so that we can crave, anticipate, and relish again. A cycle repeated over and over.

This summer was especially brutal in our area. Many 100+ days and we literally watched our gardens melt. We couldn't give them enough love or water to keep them beautiful and healthy. It seemed hopeless. The ground had cracked and so had our gardening spirit. Every plant and animal I saw had seemed drained, but then it happened.

The first cool morning just dropped in our lap. How could this be it was the middle of August? We had at least 6 more weeks of sweating through a couple of sets of clothes a day. We had at least that long to listen to the weatherman promise rain only to change his story again and again. The temperature drop was unexpected. Yes the weather prediction had said cool in the morning but just how many times had it been wrong.

To walk out that door and feel refreshed was a forgotten pleasure. The trees seemed greener, the sky bluer, the grass lusher. I sat on my porch and watched the hummingbirds dance from flower to flower, cardinals jump from branch to branch and just remembered how much pleasure there is in just being comfortable outside. We all needed this break. Oh summer will be back. The oven that is south Texas will be hot by this afternoon but for now it is wonderful to sit (sweatless), and enjoy that first cool morning.

**Cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti**



## *Growing Succulents*



Are you a beginner gardener or just looking for something easy to grow? Then look no further than the succulent. Succulents are one of the easiest plants to grow, will take neglect and poor soil conditions plus they come in a large variety of colors and shapes. This diversity and ease of care lend itself to the current decorating trend with succulents whether it is building a living wall, creating a living wreath for your front door or even a succulent ball to hang in a tree. The possibilities with these fun plants are enormous in addition to making great indoor additions to your home.

The succulent plant comes from the dry, arid regions of Africa. Approximately 60 different plant families contain succulents. The Latin word “sucus” means juice or sap, which refers to the succulent leaves which are thick and full of water. This ability to hold water in their leaves helps the plants survive during dry weather conditions. Another attractive quality of succulents is that they can easily be propagated from just a cutting. Succulents like a lot of sunshine - at least 6 hours a day. However, during the hottest time of the summer where daily temperatures reach above 90 degrees, a little shade protection goes a long way. Morning sunlight with protection from the hot afternoon sun is recommended.

Overwatering will cause succulents to develop root rot and die. A good rule of thumb is to only water when you feel that the soil is dry an inch down or deeper. Thoroughly water and then let dry out completely between each watering. Make sure you have good soil drainage.

Succulents cannot take freezing weather conditions, but they can easily be dug up and moved indoors for the winter. There are also many available indoor planters and pots that are specially made to show off your succulent collection.

### **Best Succulents for Outdoors:**



- Aeonium Rosettes
- Agave
- Aloe Vera
- Sedum

### **Best Succulents for Indoors:**



- Burros Tail
- Hens and Chicks
- Jade Plant
- Snake Plant

# Types of Succulents

## Succulent Plant Guide



Aloe



Jade



Yucca



Echeveria-  
Desert Rose



Snake Plant



ZZ Plant



Hens and  
Chicks



Portulacaria  
Afra



Wax Agave



Donkeys Tails



Lety's  
Sedeveria



Mimicry Plant



Pencil Cactus



Indian Fig  
Cactus



Candelabra  
Cactus



String of  
Pearls



Paddle



Green  
Prince



String of  
Bananas



Perle Von  
Nurberg



BH

# Have You Seen Me?



Have you seen me in your garden? I'm hard to miss at three and half inches long. My name is the **Eastern Lubber Grasshopper (*Romalea microptera*)** and I can be found throughout the southern United States. Texas has eleven species of grasshoppers and I'm one of the largest. My wings are so small that I can't fly so I hop around and climb trees. My color ranges from mostly yellow in the eastern areas while black, red and yellow in the western states. My colors are a warning to predators but I also have another defense. If you pick me up I'll start hissing, secrete a foul-smelling froth and vomit. I'm not harmful to humans but most birds and other predators can be seriously harmed by my natural chemicals—even be killed. There is only one unique bird, the Loggerhead Shrike, who loves to attack me then put me on a fence for later munching once my toxins have subsided. Otherwise, I do not have any natural predators. In Florida, I'm found in very large groups that can do major damage to citrus crops and other plants. In Texas, we are not found in such large numbers but can still cause great damage to crops and plants. I sometimes like to eat holes in your plants and then move on to the next one. Most pesticides do not bother me so I can be hard to get rid of in your garden.

Here are some suggested ways to get rid of Eastern Lubbers:

1. Handpick: Using gloves, handpick the grasshoppers, which is very easy to do as they are clumsy and slow movers. Then submerge in a mixture of 25% dish detergent and 75% water to drown them.
2. Mow your grass: Eastern Lubbers like tall grass so keeping your grass low will discourage them.
3. Pesticides: Use a pesticide that contains bifenthrin, permethrin, cyhalothrin, carbaryl or esfenvalerate. Grasshoppers become immune to poisons as they grow therefore the best time to spray is when they are young nymphs.
4. Nolo Bait: Apply around your garden and on plants for the nymph lubbers to eat. The nymphs are most likely to die while some adults will survive but the good news is they can't lay eggs after ingesting Nolo Bait.

# 2023-2024 Winter Forecasts

**The Old Farmers Almanac** forecasts a mild, wet winter for Texas in 2023-2024

**NOAA** forecasts El Nino weather pattern. To-date the models do no forecast whether it will be above or below normal conditions in Texas.

**Seasonal Temperature Outlook**  
Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2023-24  
Issued: August 17, 2023

Probability (Percent Chance)	
<b>Above Normal</b>	<b>Below Normal</b>
33-40%	33-40%
40-50%	40-50%
50-60%	50-60%
60-70%	60-70%
70-80%	70-80%
80-90%	80-90%
90-100%	90-100%

## Gardening Tasks

Here are the gardening tasks that should be done in early fall:

### **PLANT:**

- Plant new sod soon to develop deep roots.
- Look for patio plants with fall color such as zinnias, marigolds, celosia, copper plants, sun coleus, firebush & crotons.
- Plant fall flowering bulbs such as lilies and autumn crocus.
- Sow wildflower seeds by Halloween in lightly turned soil in a sunny, well draining location. Do not sow within turf grass as they cannot compete with lawns. Spring flowering types must be left in place long enough to go to seed.

### **PRUNE:**

- Pinch flowers from basil and coleus plants. If you allow them to go to flower, they will quit producing new foliage.
- Prune erratic growth from shrubs and trees. Reshape plants in the process.
- Remove browned leaves, spent flower stalks from perennials to keep them tidy.
- Keep mowing lawns at recommended height up until frost. Tall grass becomes weak grass which will allow weeds to invade.

### **FERTILIZE:**

- This may be the last call to apply iron and sulfur soil-acidifier to chlorotic plants. Chlorosis is a yellowing of leaf tissue due to a lack of chlorophyll.
- Fertilize annual color plants that have stalled out because of the hot weather . Use a high-nitrogen, water soluble plant food to boost new growth.
- Fertilize Bermuda and St. Augustine turf grass with all nitrogen food for fall greening. Find a fertilizer with a high percentage of nitrogen in a slow-release form.

### **PLANTING GUIDE FOR FALL VEGETABLES:**

- Cole plants belong to the mustard (Brassica) family and are all descendants of wild cabbage. The most common cole plants are: **Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Kale and Turnips.**

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Broccoli</b>	9/10 - 11/5			
<b>Brussels Sprouts</b>	9/10 - 11/5			
<b>Cabbage</b>	9/15 - 12/31			
<b>Cauliflower</b>		9/20 - 10/31		
<b>Kale</b>		10/1-10/31		
<b>Turnip</b>	8/20 - 11/20			

*Information was taken from Neil Sperry's Gardens*

GRIMES COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

# Speakers Bureau

Do You Need a Guest Speaker?



The Grimes County Master Gardener Association has a Speakers Bureau made up of friendly, knowledgeable Master Gardeners! We offer speakers on a variety of topics to garden clubs and other organizations upon request.

Please contact us 936-873-3907 or send an email to request a speaker at [grimescountymastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:grimescountymastergardeners@gmail.com)

**Events**

Grimes County Master Gardeners will have their September Monthly Meeting on **Tuesday, September 12 starting at 9:00 a.m.** at the Navasota Center in Navasota, Texas.

# September 2023

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

## Continuing Education and Events

- September 15: Waller County Master Gardeners, **“Fruit and More”** Tree Sale Online, 8:00 a.m.—Oct 1, 8:00 p.m.
- September 16: Montgomery County Master Gardeners, **“Bullet Proof Plants”**, 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
- September 16: Brazos County Master Gardeners, **“All About Irises”**, 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m., Clara Mounce Library, Bryan
- September 16: Urban Harvest, **“The Home Orchard”**, 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m., Zoom, Free
- September 26: Brazos County Master Gardeners, **“Going Grassless—Your Yard Can Affect the Environment”**, 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., Brazos County Extension Office, Bryan.

**HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

### 2023 FALL PLANT SALES

**2 Sales - 2 Locations!**

Vegetables, Herbs, Perennials and Ornamentals

For more information go to:  
<https://hcmga.tamu.edu/shop/>

**WEST SIDE SALE**

September 23rd  
9 am to 1 pm

Bear Creek Park  
3000 Bear Creek Dr.  
Houston, TX 77084

In Person Sales Only

**SOUTHEAST SALE**

Genoa Friendship Garden  
1210 Genoa Red Bluff  
Houston 77034

October 1st - 19th  
Online sales  
[www.hcmga.tamu.edu/plant-sales](http://www.hcmga.tamu.edu/plant-sales)

October 21st  
Online sales pickup  
In-person sale of remaining inventory




TEXAS MASTER GARDENER  
 TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
 Harris County

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

**Events**

# October 2023

Grimes County Master Gardeners will have their Fall Social in October to be hosted by Juliana Chrisanthus. More details and information to be announced at a later date.

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				

## Continuing Education and Events

- October 7: Montgomery County Master Gardeners, **“2023 Fall Vegetable and Herb Sale”**, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., 9020 Airport Road, Conroe, TX
- October 21: Urban Harvest, **“Eat Your Landscape”**, 9:30 a.m.—11:30 p.m. Zoom, \$20
- October 21: Brazos County Master Gardeners, **“Seasonal Plants After the Season”**, 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m., Clara Mounce Library, Bryan
- October 21: Waller County Master Gardeners, **“Fall Tree Sale Pick Up”**, 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., City of Waller Civic Center, 3007 Waller Street, Waller, TX 77484.



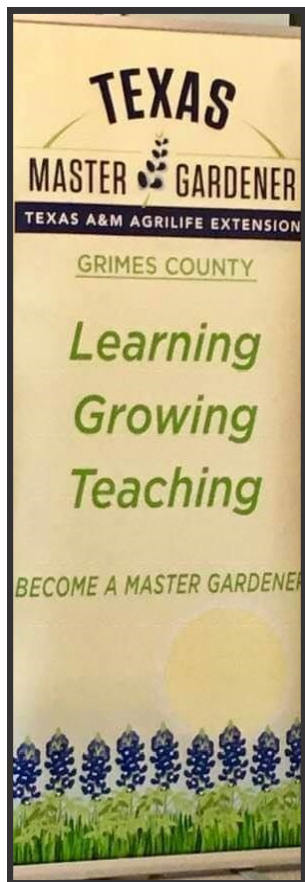
# Texas Master Gardeners

203 Veterans Memorial Drive  
 Navasota, Texas 77868  
 Website: [txmg.org/grimes](http://txmg.org/grimes)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GrimesCountyMasterGardeners](http://www.facebook.com/GrimesCountyMasterGardeners)



## Grimes County Master Gardeners

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



## 2023 Board of Directors

- President.....Sparky Hardeman
- Vice President .....Cathey Hardeman
- Secretary .....Nancy Vidotto
- Treasurer .....Kyle Braswell

## 2023 Committees/Chairs

- Auditing.....Jena Jackson
- Community Garden.....Kady Hackenberg
- Co-op.....Jena Jackson / Ron Jackson
- Fundraising .....Carol Garnet
- Intern Class Coordination .....Herb Abraham
- Junior Master Gardener.....Patti Sexton
- Newsletter .....Paula Parmley
- Nominating.....Carol Garnet
- Social Media.....Jamie Bruns
- Speakers Bureau.....Georgia Abraham / Paula Parmley
- Timekeeping .....Martha Brogdon