



July / August Gardening Tasks

Inside this issue:

<i>Gardening in the Texas Heat</i>	2
<i>Powdery Mildew</i>	3
<i>Did you Know?</i>	3
<i>Let's Bring it All Together!</i>	4
<i>Your Roses Could Be Endangered</i>	5
<i>Announcements</i>	6-8
<i>Master Gardeners</i>	9
<i>Calendar of Events /</i>	10-
<i>Grimes County Master Gar-</i>	12



Hello mid-summer heat! While we may be able to enjoy a nice dip in the pool and forget the heat for a while, the oppressive conditions of July and August are consistently harsh on gardens of all kinds.

The main task for gardeners in the Southern region is to fight drought, here are a few tips:

- Inspect your automatic irrigation system to ensure it is working properly and efficiently. Make any necessary repairs or adjustments.
 - Water deeply and less often and best in the morning to keep the soil moist. If you are struggling with a watering schedule, a moisture meter can be a handy tool to use.
 - To conserve moisture, spread mulch wherever possible.
 - If gardens require a break from the sun, erect a shade cloth or use a large umbrella.
- While our gardens and flowers are flourishing, so too are weeds and insects!
- Remain vigilant about removing weeds so as not to let them overtake your space.
 - Check plants for insects and diseases and apply pesticides and herbicides appropriately.
 - Harvest ripe vegetables regularly to improve yields.

Should you continue to fertilize in hot weather? The answer is: natives can take it but adapted or others need fertilizer to be cut back by 20% or you might cause fertilizer burn. Be sure to add plenty of water after fertilizer application.

Now that we have had plenty of sunny days, check trees and bushes that may be in need of pruning but keep the major pruning of large branches to winter when the trees/shrubs are dormant. This time of year you can do light pruning such as:

- Smaller branches that experienced winter cold damage;
- Smaller branches that cause excessive shade onto lawn; and
- Erratic new growth on bushes and groundcovers.

Submitted by Donette Bisett



Hot Tips for Gardening in the Texas Heat



Here we are in June and facing temps that feel like 105 degrees! The current drought is having a major impact on trees, shrubs and our landscapes. If you are like me, you are doing everything to just keep those precious plants alive. At our house we have even built makeshift awnings (with sheets) to protect some of the beds.

As Master Gardeners, it is painful when we lose a plant, especially when it is because of something we have no control over, like the weather. "Drought stress" can result when water loss to the plant exceeds the ability of the roots to absorb water. Even after the drought has ended it may take months for plants to repair the damage done to the root

system.

The main strategy for supplemental watering is to wet the soil several inches deep. This will depend on your soil type and should be done slowly over a longer period to avoid wasteful runoff. Soaker hoses, or hose end sprinklers at a very low water pressure will work best. When watering trees irrigate for about an hour, moving the hose around the dripline of the tree. Watering at the tree trunk has little benefit. Other plants that may be susceptible to drought stress are newly potted and poorly established ones, due to a limited root system, according to Texas A&M. Even after drought conditions have lessened and things are on the upswing. Beyond direct drought conditions, plants facing stress are more open to insects and diseases since it's in a weakened state.

Here are a few tips to remember when trying to beat the heat in your garden:

Watering- Watering plants in the early morning hours when temperatures are low is key, along with another round in early evening if the greenery needs it. Potted plants will likely need to be watered at least twice a day and trees could use deep watering a few days a week.

Mulch- A layer of organic mulch helps keep soil temperatures low, retain water and keeps the weed population down.

Shaded areas- Moving potted plants out of the sun and into shaded areas can help with cooling off. Plants in plastic black pots are more susceptible to getting hotter, since its color absorbs heat. Shade cloth— a shade cloth is made of polyester and used to protect plants from the heat and sun. The cloth would be good to use on younger plants who aren't use to extreme conditions.



Leaves- Plant leaves wilt as a defense mechanism during extremely hot days. Wilting shrinks the plant to provide less surface area for sunlight, limiting transpiration. If the leaves do not perk up after watering, it may be a sign that water is needed.

Be sure to take care of yourself as well as those plants and trees. Drink lots of water to stay hydrated, wear long sleeves and a hat to protect from harmful rays. I find that giving myself a little spritz of water can keep me from experiencing drought stress.

Submitted by Patti Sexton

Powdery Mildew—What to Know

What is powdery mildew? Powdery Mildew is a fungal disease in plants that is commonly seen in warm, dry climates. Powdery mildew thrives in high temperatures, particularly during humid weather and in shady areas with poor air circulation. Powdery Mildew looks just like the name suggests—dusty splotches of white or gray powder on leaves or stems. The good news is while unattractive, it's rarely fatal to your plants, but it does stress a plant and can weaken it making it prone to other diseases or insect damage.



Treating Powdery Mildew

1. Remove the infected plants if it has not taken hold of the whole plant. Use clippers to cut back but be sure not to compost the infected portion. Also, wash your clippers and clean them with alcohol so you won't spread it to other plants.
2. Prune to increase air circulation to give the plant more room to breathe.
3. Don't fertilize until the powdery mildew is under control.
4. Don't water from above because wet leaves encourage more mildew growth.
5. Apply fungicide. Look for one containing potassium bicarbonate, neem oil, sulfur or copper. You can also make up your own home remedy from baking soda or milk. Baking soda and liquid non-detergent soap and water works well as a preventative.



Did You Know?



Did you know that during extremely hot, dry weather worker bees turn into air conditioners for the hive? How do they do it? Bees collect water by swallowing it and then storing it in a special compartment inside their stomach called a **crop** before flying back to their nest and directly transferring it to another worker bee. Bees have the ability to find water sources from almost anywhere but are especially attracted to water that has an odor like swimming pool water. They are attracted to the chlorine in a pool and it won't hurt them. Right now we are experiencing a large contingent of bees swarming around our pool. At first we tried to keep

them away until we did a little research and realized they were only getting water to drink and then take back to their hive for cooling. They do not bother swimmers as long as you don't disturb them. Also, they cannot swim so if they fall in the pool they will drown.

Young bees need to be kept in a 94°F temperature in order to achieve optimum development. The process of cooling down the hive is actually relative to the humidity level of the nest. What the bees do to cool their hive during hot, dry days is to drop water droplets on the sealed brood or on the cell rim of larvae. In-house worker bees will then fan their wings so that air currents are created which then evaporates the water, cooling the nest area.



Let's Bring it All Together, by Donette Bisett

Calling all gardeners, farmers, chefs, and those of us that like experimenting in the garden and kitchen. There no longer needs to be a separation between delicious tasting and delicious looking landscapes. Close your eyes and think about edibles being a part of your living landscape, in lieu of, or in addition to rows or separate areas. Think about a blueberry shrub growing amidst a summer flower combo pot, or a kale plant snuggled in between a fall ornamental pot. How about a fruit tree in your backyard landscape? And, let's not forget the possibilities of mixing herbs into our landscapes! The plant diversity in herbs ranges from gorgeous wildflowers to groundcovers and borders. COLOR—bright, popping, beautiful colors live in the dreams of gardeners. Everyone gets excited about a red ripe tomato!

To bring your vision into focus, you will need to think about planning, caring for, and plant options for your edible landscape.

For planning purposes, look at edibles as you would new ornamental plants. Consider their mature size and the shapes, textures and colors added from their leaves, stems, branches and fruit. Think ahead to how harvests will affect your landscape design. Once you think the edible season through, you can plan, plant and fill in accordingly. For maintenance and care purposes, think about the sun, water and fertilizer requirements for your edibles. Try to match those needs with the ornamental plants you choose for your landscape. Doing so will help enhance your care and simplify your labor.

There are many plant options and plant combinations in edible landscaping. For example, annual crops, perennial herbs and berries, and shrubs with edible fruit.



On the left, nasturtiums are annuals with vibrant color. All parts of this beautiful flower are edible and delicious in salads.

On the right, kale is surrounded by colorful pansies.



Today, many gardeners understand a need for growing food in an eco-friendly manner. Using water wisely in warmer climates, choosing plants that react well to heat and

drought and recycling or composting where possible for sustainability. Grimes County Master Gardeners, along with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, is committed to the education and practice of Earth-Kind Landscaping. In addition, educating kids to explore the landscape with the senses of touch, taste, feel, and smell is an important part of introducing the next generation to gardening. So, let's get creative! Visualize your landscape with rich colors, pollinating flowers, fruits, vegetables and those tasty herbs.

Here are a few resources for more information on learning how to "Bring it all Together" and Earth-kind Landscaping.

- <https://www.texasgardener.com/edible-gardening>
- [Mixing edibles with ornamentals - Harmony in the Garden](#)
- <https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu>
- <https://txmg.org/grimes>

Your Roses Could Be Endangered, by Patti Sexton

A disease may be putting your roses in danger. Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) is transmitted by a virus (RRV). The virus is thought to be caused by infected grafting or the feeding of eriophyid mites. The disease itself has been around for 70 years and was first identified in the Rocky Mountains. However, the virus has spread and has been documented as far south as Texas.

There is no cure for the virus and identification of an infected plant should be confirmed by an extension agent for your county. Infected plants should be destroyed and disposed of immediately to prevent the spread. Symptoms usually appear in spring to early summer and into the growing season.

RRD Symptoms appear as:



Elongated Shoots



Red/Yellow Leaf Mottle



Leaf/Flower Distortion



Excessive Thorns



Succulent Thickened Stems



Flower Distortion

The virus is spread by the rose curl (eriophyid) mite, which is extremely small and often hard to detect. The mite feeds on the cell sap of the tender stem thus spreading the virus. The mites can travel from one plant to another and it is important when planting to allow for the spread of the plants giving them plenty of space. Mites can also be spread by the wind. They are so tiny even a leaf blower can spread them to other plants.

How can you protect your roses? If you suspect your roses could have RRD, contact your county extension agent. Remove confirmed plants quickly, destroy and dispose. Treat nearby plants with miticide to prevent the transmission. It will not stop the spread if infection of neighboring plants has already occurred. Monitor all remaining plants weekly. If you decide to replant roses make sure you have removed all diseased plant roots from the soil.

Suggestions for roses in your landscape include interplanting roses with other non-rose species, visually scout roses for RRD symptoms twice weekly during growing season, immediately remove plants confirmed with RRD. Deadhead roses throughout the season and place debris in sealed plastic bag. Always work with your healthy roses first and any RRD suspect last. This will prevent the spread of the mites by infected tools, gloves, clothing and other equipment. Eliminate any wild roses in natural areas thought to be infected. By sacrificing diseased plants, you may save many more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FOOD HANDLERS CLASS

*Required for all food service employees in the state of Texas.

*Accredited by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

2 hour class covering Food Safety practices including:
- Cross Contamination
- Time and Temperature Abuse
- Personal Hygiene

DATES & TIME:

June 23, 2022
July 8, 2022
10:00 am

LOCATION:

Navasota Annex
205 Veterans Memorial Drive
Navasota, TX 77868

COST:

\$20.00

RSVP:

by June 21st and July 5th

CONTACT:

Kyla Moeller
County Extension Agent - Grimes County
936-873-3907
kyla.gladson@ag.tamu.edu



GRIMES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Cookie Bake Sale

JULY 9, 2022 - 9:30 A.M.

NAVASOTA LIVESTOCK AUCTION

7846 TX-90, Navsota, TX

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

Grimes County Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners' Booth at the 2022 Grimes County Fair—Senior Day.

From left to Right: Vicky Wood, Betsy Lehnert, Jeffie Cappadonna, Jenny Morgan, Nancy Vidotto, Layne Payant, and Donette Bisett.



Grimes County Master Gardeners—May 2022 Monthly Meeting with Guest Speaker: Catherine O'Brien, member of the Herb Society of America, South Texas Unit. What a fun and informative class on Mediterranean Herbs.



Events

Grimes County Master Gardeners will have their July Monthly Meeting on **Tuesday, July 12, starting at 9:00 a.m.** at the Navasota Center in Navasota, Texas. Speaker: Patti Sexton—Junior Master Gardeners Workshop.

JULY 2022

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

- July 9: Montgomery County Master Gardeners, **“Pollinators and Their Favorite Plants”**, 9:00 a.m.—12 p.m., Cost—\$5, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe, TX
- July 11—14: Walker County Master Gardeners, **“Camp Bookworm: Literature in the Garden”**, 8:00 a.m.—12 p.m., Texas A&M Classroom, Grade 3-5, 102B Tam Road, Huntsville, TX 936-435-2426
- July 11 & 19: Harris County Master Gardeners, Green Thumb Gardening Series, **“Fall Vegetable Gardening”**, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Zoom (free). Register at hccs.edu/community-learning-workshop.
- July 12: Urban Harvest, **“Integrated Pest Management for Urban Gardeners”**, 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., Zoom (free), Presented by Nathan Hermond.

Events

Grimes County Master Gardeners will have their **August Business Meeting on Tuesday, August 9th, starting at 9:00 a.m.** at the Navasota Center, Navasota, Tx. Speakers: Connie and Mike Arden: Texas Trees

AUGUST 2022

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**.

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

Continuing Education and Events

- August 2: Urban Harvest, **“Growing Great Fall Tomatoes”**, 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Zoom (free), Presented by Sherry Cruse.
- August 8 & 16: Harris County Master Gardeners, Green Thumb Gardening Series, **“Herbs 101”**, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Zoom (free). Register at hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops.
- August 13: Montgomery County Master Gardeners, **“Preparing Turf for Fall & Winter”**, 9:00 a.m.—12 p.m. Cost \$5. 9020 Airport Road, Conroe, Texas

Texas Master Gardeners

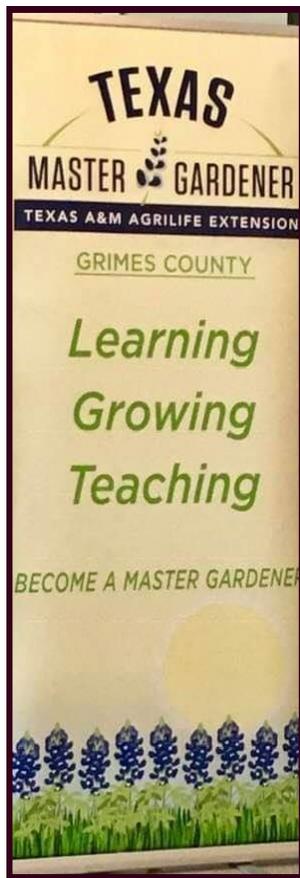
203 Veterans Memorial Drive
Navasota, Texas 77868

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: pwparmlay@gmail.com



2022 Board of Directors

- President.....Paula Parmley
- Vice PresidentKimberly Herten
- SecretaryRenee Harter
- TreasurerKyle Braswell

2022 Committees/Chairs

- Administrative.....Connie Arden
- Advertising/Publicity.....Peggy Sloan
- Auditing.....Jena Jackson
- Community Garden.....Cathey Hardeman
- Co-op.....Jena Jackson
- Fair Judging.....Vicki Wood
- Fundraising.....Carol Garnet
- Historian.....Sharon Murry
- Intern Class Coordination.....Herb Abraham
- Junior Master Gardener.....Kay Douglas
- Newsletter.....Paula Parmley
- Nominating.....Carol Garnet
- Social Media.....Jamie Bruns
- Scholarship Program.....Kimberly Herten/Renee Harter
- Speakers Bureau.....Ann DeWitt
- Timekeeping.....Martha Brogdon