Gardening Events and Information for Texans

Fall Garden Vegetable Candidates

At the First Tuesday Lecture held at St. Mark's United Methodist I got to "see the See." Teresa See. She gave a wonderful lecture on vegetable gardening. Some of us are drenched with sweat from tending our plants but this is the time to start planning our fall vegetable gardens. The majority of fall vegetables are planted starting in September and October so now is the time to decide

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Teresa See, Master Gardener Photo by Terri Simon

what you will plant. Another point to remember is that some seeds and seedlings sell out quickly so order what you decide on soon.

There are so many vegetable varieties available. You may have your own tried and true varieties you plant year after year, but rock the boat a little and try something new now and then. New (and improved) varieties

come out every year. Try one or two. You may find you like them. I found five new and/or interesting varieties that some of you might want to try.

From *parkseed.com* I found a flame star hybrid cauliflower. They advertise it as an orange cauliflower that has improved resistance to stress and heat. This Brassica oleracea var. botrytis has a beautiful yellow-orange color that is lighter than cheddar cheese and

would provide great contrast in your fall garden among the other greens you plant. It is supposed to have beta carotene levels slightly lower than carrots. One popular fad right now is using cauliflower as the base for a pizza. I tried one recently and it was delicious.



Article by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

Flame Star Hybrid Cauliflower
Photo courtesy parkseed.com

Rainbow hybrid carrot seeds are offered at *gurney.com*. This carrot seed has three unique color variations: orange, yellow



Rainbow Hybrid Carrots
Photo courtesy gurney.com

and white. It's like spinning a roulette wheel. One advantage of this 'Daucus carota 'rainbow' hybrid is you can harvest them early for baby carrots. They can be eaten fresh, cooked or canned. Remember that carrots do not like to be transplanted so sow them in their final resting place to begin with.

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Upcoming Events

August 2018

Master Gardener Lecture Series

Aug. 9, GFG Second Thursday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Speakers: Paul Winski, Extention Agent & Brandi Keller, Master Gardener Coordinator - *Master Gardener Program in the Community*. Genoa Friendship Garden Education Center building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. *Plants for sale in the Greenhouse*.

Green Thumb Gardening Series - Fall Vegetable Gardening

Aug. 9, Barbara Bush Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Aug. 16, Freeman Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Aug. 18, Maude Smith Marks Library, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 21, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Open Garden Day

July 16, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m., Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Plants for sale in the Greenhouse

Aug. 20, 8:30-11:00 a.m., Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Plants for sale in the Greenhouse.

Aug. 28, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Open Garden Day Children's Activities. Registration required by Sunday, July 22 to: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com. Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX

September 2018

Master Gardener Lecture Series

Sept. 13, *GFG Second Thursday* 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Speaker: Christine Hammon, Harris County Master Gardener - *Fall Vegetable Gardening*. Genoa Friendship Garden Education Center building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. *Plants for sale in the Greenhouse*.

Green Thumb Gardening Series - Roses: Planting, Growing & Upkeep

Sept. 13, Barbara Bush Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sept. 15, Maude Marks Library, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sept. 18, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sept. 20, Freeman Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Open Garden Day

Sept. 17, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m., Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. *Plants for sale in the Greenhouse*.

Sept. 25, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Open Garden Day Children's Activities. **Registration required by Sunday, Sept. 23 to:** ogd.harrishort@gmail.com. Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd.,Cypress, TX

Have Garden Questions?

Email your questions and photos to: phone hcmga@gmail.com or Call us Monday – Friday 9:00 am to Noon at 713-274-0950

Visit txmg.org or contact the Harris County Extension Office, 713-274-0950, coordinator.harrishort@gmail.com for information.

Plant of the Month - Anacacho Orchid Tree, Orchid Tree, Anacacho Bauhinia, Texas Bloom

(Bauhinia lunarioides, Bauhinia congesta)

by Beth Braun, Master Gardener

Its delicate white blooms are long gone, but the Anacacho Orchid Tree is being highlighted this month for its robustness and interesting leaves and seed pods. Its botanical name *Bauhinia* comes from 16th century physicians and botanists Gaspard and Jean Bauhin. *Lunarioides* comes from Lunaria, a genus name that refers to its moon-shaped seed pods.



Courtesy Lee Page, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

A delicate-looking, small tree, the Anacacho Orchid is native to arroyos and canyons of the Anacacho Mountains of Texas west of San Antonio, and in northeastern Mexico. In its native habitat it grows in rocky limestone soil. It does well in the greater Houston region if planted in well-drained alkaline soil. The Anacacho Orchid is a beautiful specimen plant that provides nectar to bees and butterflies.

The bright green leaves of this deciduous tree look like cloven hooves and cover the tree densely. It puts on a profusion of white blooms from March through May after it has leafed out, and sometimes after a fall rain. The overall form of the tree is open and airy. With judicious pruning, the Anacacho Orchid can be grown as a single or multi-stemmed tree, or as a shrub. Propagation is from fresh or scarified seed, and it often blooms in its

second year. It's a fairly rapid grower, so hold the fertilizer to keep it from becoming lanky.

As a member of the pea family (Fabaceae), it produces flat pods that turn brown. To my eye, the dried pod resembles a flying seagull when it splits open to drop its seeds.

A neighbor's tree survived our below freezing nights this past winter, and is thriving in a hot area



Courtesy Bruce Leander, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

surrounded by a sidewalk, driveway, street, and rocks. Kudos.

Plant Habit or Use: small tree, shrub Exposure: sun, part shade, dappled shade

Flowers: fragrant, white

Blooming Period: March - May

Fruit Characteristics: 2-3" flat pod containing round seeds

Height: 10 ft. to 12 ft. **Width:** 6 ft. to 12 ft.

Plant Character: deciduous

Temperature Tolerance: heat tolerant, cold hardy

Water Requirements: low

Soil Requirements: well-drained, alkaline

References:

Aggie Horticulture at Texas A&M University

Landscaping with Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest,
by George O. Miller

Native Texas Plants, by Sally Wasowski and Andy Wasowski Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin

Fall Vegetable Garden Candidates, cont'd from pg. 1

Burpee.com has Brussels sprouts, Redarling hybrid, available as seeds or plants. These Brussels sprouts are a brilliant red purple color and are supposed to be slightly sweeter than green variet-

ies of Brussels sprouts. Imagine how beautiful this would look next to a flame star hybrid cauliflower in your garden. If you have a bumper crop, Brassica oleracea gerrmifora can be blanched and frozen. Easter fell on April Fool's day this year. I took steamed Brussels sprouts dipped in chocolate to our family gathering as a prank. I thought it was a good



Redarling Hybrid Brussels Sprouts Photo courtesy burpee.com

joke, but there are rumors I may not be invited to next year's celebration.

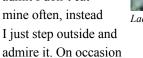


Niseko Turnip

Photo courtesy johnnysseed.com

Turnip lovers can order Niseko turnip seeds from johnnyseeds.com. This Brassica rapa hybrid is white with a mild and sweet flavor. It is supposed to be heat tolerant with a resistance to club root. It will not store long so for best flavor eat it fresh.

Finally- I want to list my personal favorite, lacinato kale. Also referred to as dinosaur kale, brassica oleracea can be ordered from seedsavers.org. This kale dates back to the 18th century. I love the blue-green leaves but I must admit I don't eat mine often, instead I just step outside and





Lacinto Kale

Photo courtesy seedsaversexchange.com

I will tear off a few outside leaves and toss them in my scrambled eggs for breakfast. I have some growing now, but it is not thriving because it's just too hot.

I want to encourage you to try at least one new fall vegetable variety this year. Several websites are listed, but you may have your own favorites. Start planning early and get your beds/pots ready. Happy fall gardening.

Herb of the Month - Chamomile (Matricaria chamomilla)

by Karen McGowan, Master Gardener

Well into what is typically the hottest month of the year, now may be the prime time to look forward to the coming fall months and plan for the fall garden to include an herb known for its calming properties: chamomile (Matricaria chamomilla). With the August Green Thumb lecture topic deemed "Fall Vegetable Gardening" chamomile is an excellent herb focus for this month, as it is often recommended as a companion plant to install in the vegetable garden, since its strong scent helps keeps pests away.

There are two kinds of chamomile. The first is Roman chamomile (Chamaemelum nobile) and the other is German chamomile (Matricaria recutita). The Roman variety is the true chamomile but German chamomile is utilized for nearly the same herbal



purposes. The steps for growing Roman chamomile and growing German chamomile are also nearly identical.

An annual herb pretty enough to be mistaken for a purely ornamental annual, chamomile is a well-known medicinal plant species from the Asteraceae (daisy) family, and is often referred to as the

"star among medicinal species." Native to Western Europe, India, and western Asia, chamomile has become abundant in the United States, where it has escaped cultivation to grow freely in pastures, cornfields, roadsides, and other well-drained areas. The generic name, chamomile, is derived from the Greek, khamai, meaning "on the ground," and *melon*, meaning "apple." Chamomile was

Citations:

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3210003/ https://www.encyclopedia.com/plants-and-animals/plants/plants/chamomile https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/herbs/chamomile/growing-chamomile.htm



revered as one of nine sacred herbs by the ancient Saxons. The Egyptians valued the herb as a cure for malaria and dedicated chamomile to their sun god, Ra. Chamomile is prized within Indian Ayurveda medicine for creating balance and other healing properties.

According to the US National Library of Medicine, "true chamomile is an annual plant with thin spindle-shaped roots only penetrating flatly into the soil. The branched stem is erect, heavily ramified, and grows to a height of 10–80 cm. The long and narrow leaves are bi- to tripinnate. The flower heads are placed separately, they have a diameter of 10–30 mm, and they are pedunculate and heterogamous. The golden yellow tubular florets with 5 teeth are 1.5–2.5 mm long, ending always in a glandulous tube. The 11–27 white plant flowers are 6–11 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, and arranged concentrically. The receptacle is 6–8 mm wide, flat in the beginning and conical, cone-shaped later, hollow—the latter being a very important distinctive characteristic of Matricaria—and without paleae. The fruit is a yellowish brown achene."

Chamomile can be grown on any type of soil, but growing the crop on rich, heavy, and damp soils should be avoided. It can also withstand cold weather. Chamomile has been grown successfully on a wide range of soils, including loamy sand and, in Hungary, even grows extensively on lime soils in areas considered barren and too

cont'd on pg. 6

Chamomile, cont'd from pg. 5

poor for any other crop. Temperature and light conditions (sunshine hours) have greater effect on essential oils and azulene content, than does the soil type, and chamomile possesses a high degree of tolerance to soil alkalinity. Interestingly, the plants accumulate fairly large quantities of sodium (66 mg/100 gm of dry material), which helps in reducing the salt concentration in the top soil.

Chamomile can be propagated by

seed under specific moisture conditions, but propagation by transplanting is generally the recommended method. Some irrigation during the bloom period can be helpful in increasing the flower yield. In alkaline soils, more frequent irrigation is usually needed. That said, chamomile is drought tolerant and, once established, will likely do well with minimal if any formal irrigation.

Chamomile grows best in cool conditions and should be planted in part shade, but will also grow in full sun. Once established, it needs very little care. Like most herbs, chamomile grows best when it is not fussed over. Too much fertilizer will result in lots of weakly flavored foliage and few flowers.

For the most part, chamomile is not affected by many pests, and is in fact often recommended as a companion plant in the



vegetable garden as its strong scent reportedly helps keep pests away. Unlike many other herbs, when harvesting chamomile, it is the blossoms to be collected, not the stems, leaves or roots. Those happy white flowers are what is required for chamomile tea. Harvesting chamomile is a continuous activity, since its flowers will bloom continuously throughout the grow-

ing season, especially if picked regularly. Wait until flowers are opened to their fullest extent, but not so long as when the white petals begin to sag and droop. Harvesting at the fullest flower moment helps to ensure the complete medicinal benefit offered by the plant.

With a sweet scent that pairs well with citrus and honey, chamomile chimes equally well with mints, such as lemon balm or spearmint, combined in equal quantity. Enjoy chamomile alone in a tea, or paired with one of these for a special flavor treat.

Plant chamomile alongside your fall vegetable garden and enjoy the sights, scents, and medicinal benefits of this helpful, pretty herb!





The Gardens at Texas A&M University Opening

by Evelyn Harding

Despite the heat, Master Gardeners from all over the state turned out for the Grand Opening Ceremony of the The Gardens at Texas A&M University in College Station on June 15. Dr. Patrick Stover, Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, presided over the ceremony and recognized the Texas Master Gardener Association members for the significant contribution of their hard-earned association funds for the Texas Master Gardeners Earth-Kind Garden. Lead Donors, including Tim and Amy Leach, were in attendance. A beautiful poem written by Dr. Eduardo Espina was recited and Junior Master Gardeners placed the last plants in a vertical wall garden to close the ceremony. Gar-



den tours of the newly completed seven acres of gardens commenced. The Gardens include a Butterfly and Bee Garden, German and Czech Heritage Garden, Fruit Orchard, Homestead Garden, Texas Superstar Garden, Vineyard, Rose Garden, Mexican Heritage Garden, Herb Garden, Citrus Grove, Vegetable Farm Garden, Bird Garden, Kitchen



Garden, Tree Park, Pecan Bottom, Maroon and White Garden, Food and Fiber Fields, Rain Garden, Flora Border Garden and of course, the Texas Master Gardeners Earth-Kind Garden. Features include a Grand Arbor, Pavilion, Farmer's Market, Overlook to White Creek, Center-Pivot Irrigation System, Outdoor Classroom and Event Lawn. This is the first phase of construction and future phases will create a Children's Garden, Great Lawn and more Rose Gardens. The total planned acreage of the garden is forty acres, which John Sharp, Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, joked was around the size of the entire campus of University of Texas in Austin! Evelyn Harding was in attendance and especially enjoyed talking with Dr. Doug Welsh, retired professor at Texas A&M, about some of the plants in the Texas Superstar Garden.



The Gardens at Texas A&M are located on the West Campus of Texas A&M University at the intersection of John Kimbrough Boulevard and Penberthy Road, across from Reed Arena. The Gardens entrance is located behind the AgriLife Center at the Agriculture and Life Sciences Complex. The garden is open from dawn to dusk and admission is free. For more information see https://gardens.tamu.edu/

It is truly worth a trip to College Station to see these beautiful gardens!



Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX 77433

Open Garden Day is back! OGD has been relocated to the Weekley Community Center at 8440 Greenhouse Road, Cypress, Texas 77433.

We won't have outdoor gardens, so the activities will focus on nature crafts, small plants in pots and games. Activities will include decorating seed pods and making pine cone bird feeders and acorn jewelry. There will be coloring pages, legos, playdough and toddler puzzles. We hope you can make it!

Pre-Registration required by Sunday May 20th,

to ogd.harrishort@gmail.com with number of child participants and their ages, so we are sure to have enough supplies for everyone. Also, please contact us with questions or comments.

2018 Tuesday Open Garden Day schedule

Raster Sardener

Aug. 28th Nov. – TBD
Sep. 25th Dec. – Winter break
Oct. 16th











H C M G A 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road Houston, Texas 77034 Email: phoneHCMGA@gmail.com

Phone: 713.274.0950



The Genoa Friendship Gardens Welcomes you to Open Garden Days

On the 3rd Monday of every month, 8:30 am until 11:00 am, March thru October. Admission to the Exhibit Gardens is Free

- Tour the variety of exhibits to inspire you with vegetable, perennial, rose, tropical & native gardens
- Meet and talk with a Master Garden about planting citrus, fruit or berries for you home orchard
- Contemplate the joy in the serenity garden and catch the view of the water garden
- Don't leave the GFG until you have shopped the Greenhouse where seasonal herbs, vegetables and perennials are available for bargain prices until September.







FACT SHEET

Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Harris County 3033 Bear Creek Drive, Houston, Texas 77084 713-274-0950 ● http://harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort

Vegetable Varieties for Harris County

* Top performers in Harris County trials

BEANS

BUSH

Accelerator *
Contender
Jade
Provider *

POLE

McCaslan Northeaster Rattlesnake

LIMA (BUTTERBEAN)

Fordhook Florida Butter Henderson Jackson Bush Sieva (Carolina)

BEETS

Chioggia Detroit Red Pacemaker III

BROCCOLI

Arcadia *
Green Magic *
Packman

BRUSSEL SPROUTS

Diablo Tasty Nugget

CABBAGE

Early Jersey Wakefield Point One Ruby Perfection Sombrero

CHINESE CABBAGE

Brisk Green Joi Choi Pac Choi

CANTALOUPE

Ambrosia Caravelle French Orange * Super 45 Tasty Bites

CARROTS

Early Caracas *
Mokum
Purple Haze *
Scarlet Nantes
Sugarsnax 54 *

CAULIFLOWER

Brocoverde (Cauli-Broc)

Majestic Snow Crown

Violet Queen (Purple)

CHARD

Bright Lights Fordhook Rhubarb

COLLARDS

Champion Flash Georgia

CORN

Sweet

Bonanza (Yellow) Merit (Yellow) Silver Queen (White) **Sugar Enhanced** Funk's G-90 (Bicolor) Kandy Korn (Yellow) Tendertreat (Yellow)

CORN (continued)

Super Sweet

Crisp n Sweet (Y)
Florida Stay Sweet (Y)
Honey n Pearl (Bi)
How Sweet It Is (W)
Triple Sweet
Honey Select
Serendipity

CUCUMBERS

Pickling

Calypso
Carolina
H-19 Little Leaf
Slicing

Diva Spacemaster

Suyo Sweet Success

EGGPLANT

Fairy Tale Neon Ping Tung Purple Rain

GARLIC

Elephant Mexican Purple New York White Texan White

KALE

Lacinato Red Russian Vates Winterbor

KOHLRABI

Early White Vienna Grand Duke Purple Danube

Veggie Varieties for Harris County, cont'd from pg. 11

Silver Queen

ONION **BULBING**

Burgundy

Grano 1015Y

Grano 502

BUNCHING

Granex (Wh, R, Y)

Beltsville Bunching Southport White

* Top performers in Harris County trials

Jubilee

Mickylee

Sugar Baby

Yellow Doll

Minilee

LEEKS American Flag King Richard	PARSLEY Italian Greenleaf Pagoda Triple Curl	POTATO IRISH & NEW Irish Cobbler (White) Red Lasoda (Red) Red Pontiac (Red)	WINTER SQUASH Acorn types Buttercup types Butternut types Spaghetti types
LETTUCE – Head None Recommended		Russian Banana (Fingerling) SWEET Beauregard	Sweet Mama
LETTUCE – Leaf	PEAS	Centennial	TOMATO
BIBB Buttercrunch Esmeralda	SOUTHERN Blackeye #5 Mississippi Silver	Jewel	CHERRY BHN 968 Juliet
ROMAINE	Purple Hull	RADISH	Sun Gold
Defender * Flashy Trout Back * Green Forest * Parris Island * RED Red Fire Red Sails Redina Vulcan OAK LEAF Brunia (Red)	Texas Pinkeye Zipper Cream ENGLISH Little Marvel Wanda SNAP Cascadia Sugar Ann Sugar Bon Sugar Snap	Champion Cherry Belle Easter Egg French Breakfast White Icicle SPINACH Bloomsdale Melody	Sweet Chelsea Sweet 'n Neat * Tumbling Tom * PASTE Roma Viva Italia STANDARD Bush Early Girl Celebrity Champion Tycoon *
Salad Bowl		Space Tyee	.,
MUSTARD Florida Broadleaf Savannah Southern Giant Curled	PEPPER SWEET BELL Big Bertha Blushing Beauty Golden Summer	SUMMER SQUASH YELLOW Dixie Pic-N-Pic * SuperPik *	TURNIPS Purple Top White Globe Royal Globe Shogoin Tokyo Cross
OKRA	Gypsy		White Lady
Cajun Delight	Jackpot		·
Clemson Spineless	Lilac	ZUCCHINI	WATERMELON
Emerald	SWEET	Gold Rush	Crimson Tide
Louisiana Green Velvet	Giant Marconi	Magda	Golden Crown

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

President

NOVELTY

Peter Pan

Sunburst

Trombone

Senorita (Jalapeno)

Super Heavy Weight

HOT

Anaheim

Mexibell

Mucho Nacho

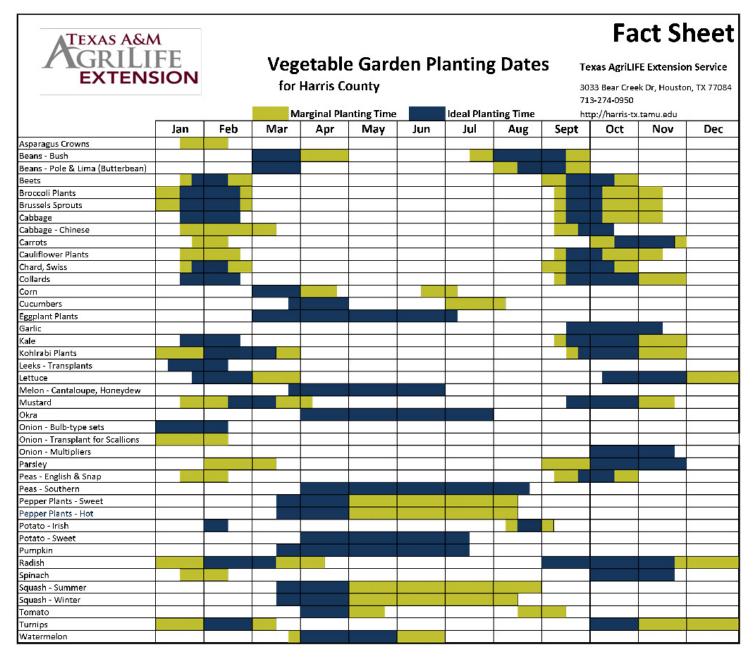
Santa Fe Grande

TAM Hidalgo Serrano

Super Cayenne

Gardening Tools

This chart is a handy guide for knowing the best times to plant in Harris County.





TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE 3033 BEAR CREEK DR. HOUSTON, TX 77084

713-274-0950

harris.agrilife.org/program-areas/hort/

hcmga.tamu.edu

Like Us On Facebook

The Harris County Master Gardeners as well as Texas A&M Agrilife Extension - Harris County Horticulture are actively participating on Facebook offering tips, lists, news and plant advice almost daily. The best part, instead of locating planting guides or insect documents, and sale



dates for individuals, you can add the HCMG site to your account and easily share information with others. This is a definite timesaving device for these busy garden days and helps promote our organization.

www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyHorticulture

URBAN DIRT • AUGUST 2018

August Green Thumb Gardening Series

Fall Vegetable Gardening



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6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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