

Henderson County Master Gardeners (HCMG) Newsletter



Inside Dirt

President's Message

Yvonne Sparks, Master Gardener & President



As everyone plans July 4th celebrations, keep in mind there is many things gardeners can do to minimize the impact mosquitos have on our day. Mosquitos carry diseases that are dangerous and sometimes fatal. HOUZZ Magazine (May 26, 2018) shared some suggestions homeowners can use to eradicate/reduce the mosquito population in your home and yard. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it's a very good idea to take precautions. Here are the most effective ways to get rid of mosquitoes and keep them away from your yard.

How to Get Rid of Mosquitoes

1. Eliminate standing water. Mosquitoes need stagnant water to breed. It doesn't take much stagnant water to support a mosquito colony. "Even a little soda cap can breed mosquitoes," says Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann, entomologist at the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program at Cornell University. So your first move, whether you're trying to get rid of mosquitoes or prevent them from joining you in the first place, is to eliminate any standing water.

2. Look for hidden water sources. Common culprits where stagnant water may collect include flower pots and saucers, sand buckets, tire swings, children's toys, grill covers, garbage can lids, baby pools, gutters, tarps, metal pieces of furniture, even in a fence post where the cap has come off. Bromeliad plants can collect water in the center portion of the plant that can become a mosquito breeding ground. Daytime-biting mosquitoes, the ones that spread Zika, will look for plants like that.



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President's Message (cont.)

How to Protect Yourself From Mosquitoes

Different types of mosquitoes spread different diseases and bite at different times of the day. Day-biters carry Chikungunya, Dengue and Zika, and they bite primarily in the day, according to the CDC, though they can also bite at night. The Culex mosquito species spreads West Nile virus and bites from evening to morning. Most types of mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk.

1. Make sure your home is sealed. Be sure that screens on your windows are in good working order, and that your screen doors close securely. Patch or replace screens that have holes or don't fit windows properly..

2. Cover up or use repellent. When you do go outside, mosquito experts recommend that you wear long pants, long-sleeved tops and closed-toed shoes or use insect repellent.

3. Use permethrin on clothing. Permethrin is a chemical insecticide. You can purchase permethrin-treated clothing or treat items like boots, pants, socks and tents with permethrin spray. The CDC warns that you should not apply it directly to skin. It can also be harmful to pets.

What Natural Things Keep Mosquitoes Away?

There are a few things gardeners and homeowners can do to keep mosquitos away:

Fans. Because mosquitoes are not strong flyers, the air stream emitted by a fan is like a gale force wind to them — they can't fly in the face of it. If you sit directly in the breeze, the bugs shouldn't be able to reach you.

Bat houses. Adding bat houses to your property can be a potential secondary solution. Bats definitely do eat mosquitos. HCMG, Bill Walter, is a big promoter of placing bat houses in your house.

Citronella. Citronella is an EPA-registered mosquito repellent, but citronella candles and torches have questionable efficacy. Bottom line: "If you're not sitting directly in the plume it's not going to ward off mosquitoes," experts say.

Cutting back vegetation. Reducing shade in a garden or backyard is one strategy to ward off day-biting mosquitoes that carry Zika, because these day-biters don't like being in direct sun. Or you can simply use this knowledge to be strategic about what part of your yard you hang out in.

President's Message (cont.)

What Kills Mosquitoes?

Mosquito traps. Mosquito traps kill mosquitoes. But be careful when using them. A common saying in the pest management world, “Your best mosquito solution is your neighbor’s mosquito trap.”

Insecticide sprays. The EPA registers pesticides and sets the restrictions for residential use. “You should never, ever apply pesticides unless there is a distinct need to do so,” says Joe Conlon, a medical entomologist and technical advisor for the American Mosquito Control Association. It is recommended to use a certified professional trained on how to properly apply mosquito insecticide in a residential setting. Sprays can last four weeks.

Who to Call for Help With Mosquitoes

If you're dealing with a mosquito infestation, want to know how to prevent one or simply want to find out what secondary measures would be worth trying in your area, contact your local mosquito-abatement district, if your local town or county has one. Another option is to call your local county extension office for advice. These offices help answer homeowner questions about mosquito control and come up with solutions that fit the region. The Henderson County Extension Agent is Spencer Perkins. Contact him at Texas AgriLife Office at 903-675-6130.

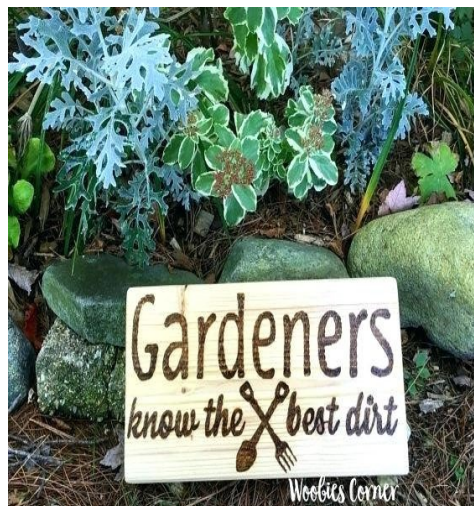
Other resources:

The Environmental Protection Agency's mosquito repellent product finder website will tell you which products protect against mosquitoes and for how many hours. You should also follow the product label's instructions for applying repellent on both yourself and children. The CDC recommends using an EPA-registered product that contains one of these active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR3535, para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone.

For more information on pesticides, visit the EPA website or the National Pesticide Information Center at Oregon State University.

One resource to building your own bat house: Build a Bat House - National Wildlife Federation; <https://www.nwf.org/en/Garden-for-Wildlife/Cover/Build-a-Bat-House>





**Master Gardeners— Please remember to enter your hours in the website
(both volunteer and continuing education)**

<https://texas.volunteersystem.org/users/index.cfm>

Calendar of Events

- **7/17—Library Series—Compost Tea and Worm Castings (see page 21)**
- 7/18— HCMG Monthly Meeting
- 7/24-26—Junior Master Gardener (MG specialist training) Corinth, TX
- **8/9— Summer Series— Drip Irrigation (see page 21)**
- 8/15— HCMG Monthly Meeting
- **9/3— New Master Gardener Intern Class begins**
- 9/4-6—Vegetables (MG specialist training) San Antonio, TX
- 9/18-20—Texas Superstar (MG specialist training) Tyler, TX
- 9/19— HCMG Monthly Meeting
- **10/4— An Evening with Neil Sperry (see page 5)**
- 12/5-7—Composter (MG specialist training) Rosenberg, TX
- 4/25-27, 2019— TMGA Conference in Victoria, TX

Events in **bold** are open to the public

Henderson County Master Gardeners monthly meetings (noon) are held at: Richard M. Hart and Johnny Morris Conservation Center 5601 County Road 4812 Athens, TX

Henderson County Master Gardeners Fall Conference 2018



Facts and Fantasies of Texas Gardening, An Evening with Neil Sperry

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Athens Country Club

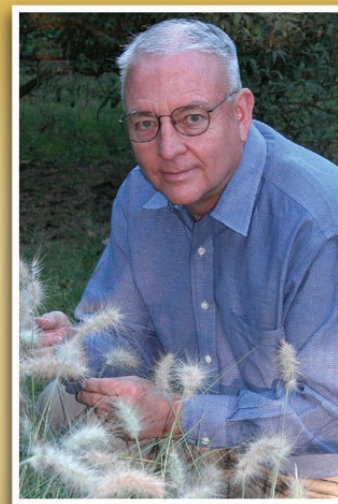
Reception and Silent Auction: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$50 each

Tickets go on sale July 1, 2018

To purchase tickets visit our website:

<https://hendersonmg.ejoinme.org/fallconference>



Limited Tickets Available

Facts and Fantasies of Texas Gardening, An Evening with Neil Sperry October 4, 2018

Paula Winter, Master Gardener

Your local Master Gardener Association, HCMGA, is thrilled to host Mr. Neil Sperry for their fall conference this year. "Facts and Fantasies of Texas Gardening, An Evening with Neil Sperry" will be held Thursday, October 4, 2018 at the Athens Country Club, from 6 – 8 pm. Tickets are \$50 each, including dinner, and will **go on sale July 1**. A table can be reserved with the purchase of eight tickets. A limited number of tickets are available and they are expected to sell out early. The tickets will be sold only online at a safe and secure website: <https://hendersonmg.ejoinme.org/fallconference>, and assistance is available from a Master Gardener, if needed, for online ticket purchases. A receipt will be emailed immediately after purchase.

Neil Sperry attended Texas A&M University and earned B.S and M.S degrees in horticulture from The Ohio State University. He hosted a radio program on KRLD 1080 AM for over 30 years. He now hosts a show on WBAP 820 AM radio. Additionally, he broadcasts to more than 50 stations statewide with his daily Plant Talk Texas and weekend Texas Lawn and Garden Hour.

Two of Sperry's books have become favorites of Texas gardeners. His *Complete Guide to Texas Gardening* (published 1982 with a second edition in 1991), has been popularly known as the "boot book," in reference to its cover art. It remained a primary reference for Texas gardeners until the publication of *Neil Sperry's Lone Star Gardening* in 2014. This 344-page book contains comprehensive plant listings and more than 800 photographs taken by Sperry, an avid photographer.

Sponsorships are also available for this event. There will be an event booklet and slide show on October 4 that will have ads from each one of our sponsors from Gold to Emerald (for more information on sponsorships, see the contact information at the end of this article). Recognition for all sponsors will appear as well on the HCMGA website: txmg.org/Hendersonmg; Facebook - @HCmastergardener and in our newsletter, "Inside Dirt". Any donation will be accepted and a tax exempt receipt will be issued. All ads need to be submitted by September 7, 2018.

For those who like to shop, the event will also include a silent auction, with wonderful items donated by local businesses. If you are a business interested in donating an item, please see the contact information at the end of this article.

This event is a fundraising event held each year to support the activities of HCMGA:

- DREAM Garden at East Texas Arboretum – HCMGA volunteer;
- Children's Garden – Consultants available for schools and non-profit community gardens;
- Speakers Bureau – Available to non-profit groups at no charge;
- Greenhouse at Trinity Valley Community College – HCMGA volunteer and grow plants;
- Library Series – Monthly series of free lectures on horticulture topics;
- Summer Series – Free to the public; guest speakers from all across the state;
- Booths at community events where information is handed out and questions answered;
- Provide weekly articles for local newspapers and publish a newsletter 6 times a year.

All of these activities are held free of charge for the community. In 2018, HCMGA was recognized by the Texas A & M Agrilife Extension Service for First Place, Outstanding Organization; First Place, Learn at the Library Series; and Second Place, Outstanding Individual – Jeanne Brown.

Please consider supporting HCMGA by purchasing a ticket to our event, buying a silent auction item(s) and/or purchasing a sponsorship.

Henderson County Master Gardeners Association
Henderson County Courthouse, 100 E. Tyler Street, Suite 300, Athens, TX 75751
903-675-6130 Email: hendersonCMGA@gmail.com

Facts and Fantasies of Texas Gardening, An Evening with Neil Sperry October 4, 2018

2018 Sponsorship Levels



\$1,000

Emerald

Four reserved tickets to event October 4, 2018 and two autographed books
Recognition/ad space in event booklet (Inside Front or Inside Back cover)
Recognition during event, HCMGA Facebook, website, newsletters
Opportunity to distribute business coupons/gifts



\$500

Diamond

Two reserved tickets to event October 4, 2018
Recognition/ad space in event booklet – Full page ad
Recognition during event, HCMGA Facebook, website, newsletters
Opportunity to distribute business coupons/gifts



\$250

Platinum

Recognition/ad space in event booklet – 2/3 page ad
Recognition during event, HCMGA Facebook, website, newsletters



\$100

Gold

Recognition/ad space in event booklet – 1/3 page ad
Recognition during event, on HCMGA Facebook, website, newsletters



\$ 50

Silver

Recognition during event, on HCMGA Facebook, website, newsletters

Donations to Silent Auction

Recognition during event, HCGA Facebook, website, newsletters



For more information, please contact:

Claudia Durham, cdurham0224@gmail.com or call 214-507-8583

Elizabeth Murphy, emurphy8@msn.com or call 719-649-2320

Paula Winter, jpwinter@embarqmail.com or call 817-988-2038

Henderson County Master Gardeners Association is a 501(c) (3) organization

You can sign up to be a sponsor or purchase tickets online!

<https://hendersonmq.ejoinme.org/fallconference>

Pruning: A Science and An Art

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Reasons to Prune:

- Control size
- Direct growth, get the desired shape
- Develop a strong framework
- Open up to sun and air
- Improve flower and/or fruit production

Don't prune unless you have a reason!

When NOT to prune:

- Don't prune oak trees from February to June due to the threat of oak wilt
- Don't prune when trees are stressed
- Don't prune flowering plants when it will interfere with their flowering

Pruning recommendations:

- Oaks- Best time to prune is the cold of winter or the heat of summer
 - ◊ Beetle populations are the lowest
 - ◊ Fungal mats are least likely to form
- Flowering plants- prune as soon as flowering is done which will create vigorous summertime growth and prolific buds next year

Where to make those cuts:

- Make cuts beyond branch, bud or node
- Remove the inward facing nodes which will encourage growth outward
- Cut 1/4th inch beyond the bud, sloping down and away from the bud
- Heading cuts- stimulates growth of buds closest to cut
 - ◆ Make heading cuts selectively to reduce shrub height and retain natural form
- Thinning- branches removed at their points of origin or attachment
 - ◆ Make cuts just above side branches or buds and roughly parallel to them
 - ◆ Used in moderation, thinning cuts reduce shrub density without stimulating regrowth
- Hedges- trim the top narrower than the bottom so that the sunlight can reach all of the leaves
- Trees- start with what you know must go
 - ◆ Dead, diseased wood
 - ◆ Suckers from base and water sprouts
 - ◆ Crossing branches
 - ◆ Growth going where you don't want it
 - ◆ "Excessive growth"

HCMG Projects

DREAM Garden- The Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) maintains a garden at the East Texas Arboretum (see page 2)

Children's Garden- The HCMGA began a program to help educate the children at South Athens Elementary school about gardening and growing delicious and nutritious food. We are expanding this program to other schools within Henderson County.

Library Series- Educational presentations are hosted by the HCMGA on the third Tuesday of each month. These programs are open to the public in Athens at the Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library.

Greenhouse- The HCMGA maintains a greenhouse located at Trinity Valley Community College. This greenhouse allows us to educate others and grow plants that are sold at our annual spring plant sale.

Plant Sale— The HCMGA hosts an annual plant sale in the spring which is open to the public. Master Gardeners propagate and grow different varieties of plants and trees. This event is a major fundraiser for the organization.

Summer Series—Workshops are provided in the summer months in an effort to share expertise and educate the public on various gardening topics.

Fall Conference— The largest fundraiser for the HCMGA, this conference includes guest speakers, a raffle/silent auction and a dinner which is open to the public.

Pruning: A Science and An Art (cont.)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

- Crape Myrtles
 - ◆ Pruning is NOT recommended
 - ◆ Do not commit “Crape Murder” or practicing the yearly topping of crape myrtles (see picture below)
 - ◆ Pruning may be necessary for safety, improving structure, removing crossing branches or removing dead or diseased branches
- Roses- see the information in the link below that describes the steps for pruning roses

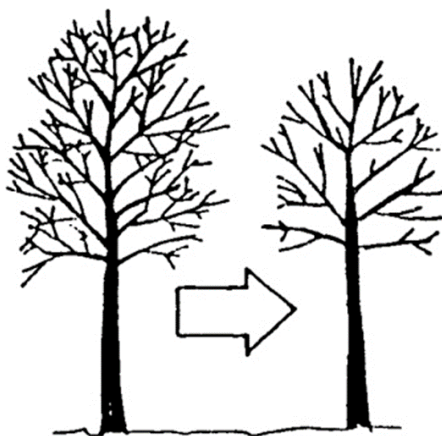
<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/proper-pruning-techniques/>

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/faqs/how-do-you-prune-a-crape-myrtle/>

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/roses/prune.html>



Stop being a “Crape Murderer”



Time to Plan a Fall Garden...Seriously!

David Bickerstaff, Master Gardener

Your entering the heat of the summer, so why begin to plan your fall garden?

Well, the real time you should start planning your fall garden is in the winter when you sit down with pencil and paper and map out your garden beds and crop succession for the entire year.

Assuming you do not have plan for the entire year, all is not lost.

Most vegetables that grow in a spring garden in East Texas will also grow well in a fall garden. In fact, some will even do better. Cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, and broccoli, which suffer in the summer heat, will be more crisp and succulent. Cool nights and warm days add sweetness to corn. Parsnips and collards are improved by a touch of frost. Try your summer disappointments again in a fall garden, and you will be pleasantly surprised.

Timely planting is the key to a successful fall garden. Figure the number of days to maturity of your particular crop, add two weeks and count backwards from November 10-15, the average time for a killing frost for Henderson County, Texas area. A complete list of vegetable varieties and recommended fall planting dates is available from the Henderson County AgriLife Extension Service.

The first key for a successful fall garden is to get the weeds out. And if Bermuda or bahia grass are among those weeds, you can't just rototill everything under because once you start watering and fertilizing again, you'll have the greenest lawn in town.

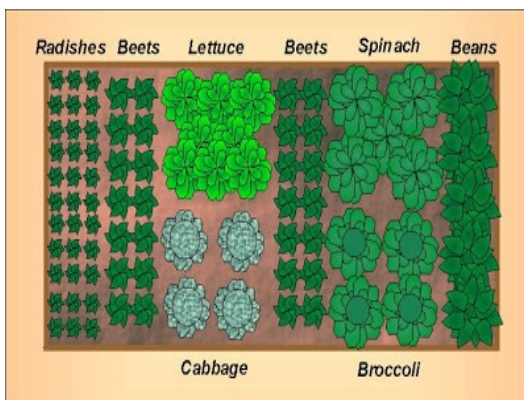
Every time you prepare the soil to plant a new crop, always mix in as much compost as you can get your hands on. Add well-decomposed animal manure, fertilizer and lime if soil tests indicate a low fertility or pH, and work all ingredients into the soil.

Don't forget to give your garden soil a boost before you plant. A light layer of compost, aged manure, or a small application of a complete fertilizer will be worth the effort and cost.

If you haven't already cleared dried and dead debris from the summer garden, do so now. These leftovers provide winter refuge for pests and diseases. Do not put any diseased plants in your compost bin.

All tender fall transplants will appreciate protection from hot sun the first several weeks. To conserve moisture, mulch all your vegetables. A side dressing of nitrogen fertilizer will also give them a boost.

For more information- <https://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu/prepare-in-july-for-fallwinter-vegetable-harvest/>



Henderson County Texas- Get to Know Your County

Indians inhabited the area in prehistoric times. Pottery found buried amid fossil remains of extinct horses and camels in the 1920s and 1930s indicated that an aboriginal culture existed along the Trinity River thousands of years ago. One particular artifact, **Malakoff Man**, is a sandstone mask weighing ninety-eight pounds.

When the first Europeans entered the area in the sixteenth century, they found the Hasinai, a Caddoan group, living along the upper Neches River. The Caddoes had the highest cultural development of any Texas Indians. They were agriculturalists and **raised corn, beans, squash, sunflowers, and tobacco**. Men and women shared garden work, used dogs for hunting bears, consumed small mammals, fish, and birds, ran trot lines baited with doughbait, and gathered nuts, berries, and wild fruits.

The Spanish and French explorers described these people, who called themselves the Tejas, as friendly



Selected Gardening Tips

July

- ◆ A three to four inch layer of mulch will prevent most evaporation from the soil and significantly lower the soil temperature in the root zone, reducing stress on the root system
- ◆ Lawns at this time of year are rapidly growing and need frequent mowing. The best lawns will be those that are mowed regularly. If you mow often enough, you can return the clippings back to the lawn. The rule of thumb is to not remove more than 1/3 of the length of the blades per mowing. This may mean mowing every 5 or 6 days instead of once a week (or less). Removing more than 1/3 is stressful on the lawn, and will tend to leave visible clippings on top of the grass.
- ◆ July and August is also the time to treat for white grubs if there is a problem. Treatment is based on whether grubs are present in the turf and the way to find out is to dig a few test areas and look for the small grubs in the soil. Not all lawns will have grubs and excessive use of pesticides can lead to other turf problems
- ◆ Begin preparing for the fall garden in July. That's right! It may seem odd to start a fall garden in the summertime, but you need to get plants started in time for harvests before first freeze.
- ◆ If you are still looking for summer color to plant, you are not out of luck. Marigolds, cosmos, vinca (periwinkle), gomphrena, cleome (spider flower), zinnias, purslane and portulaca all do well in the summer heat. As a matter of fact, marigolds planted in late summer and carried into fall tend to have brighter colors than spring-planted marigolds. Spider mites, the number one pest of marigolds, are not as prolific during the cooler days of fall as they are in the summertime.

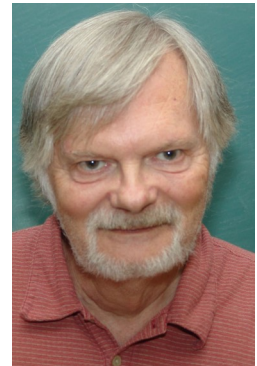
August

- ◆ When watering lawns during hot weather, do it early in the morning. Otherwise, much of the water will evaporate from the grass before the plants get to use it. To further avoid excess evaporation, use a sprinkler that produces large drops of water instead of a fine mist.
- ◆ Check the thickness of mulch around your shrubs, flowers and newly planted trees. Un-mulched soils can reach more than 100 degrees, hot enough to kill roots. Mulched soils can be three to 10 degrees cooler even several inches deep. Besides reducing soil temperature, mulches also conserve water by reducing evaporation, often up to 65 percent.
- ◆ Starting in mid August plant broccoli plants, Brussel sprouts, cabbage plants, Chinese cabbage, carrots, cauliflower plants, Swiss chard, collards, kale, English peas, Irish potatoes, and summer squash.
- ◆ Set out tomato transplants right away for a fall harvest. Look for an early maturing variety (65 to 75 days). Remember that our average first freeze is mid-November and that tomato maturity slows down as the days get cool and cloudy.

Visit easttexasgardening.tamu.edu for a more complete list of monthly tips.

“Weather” or Not to Water

Bob Erickson, Master Gardener



Everyone knows that you need to water the garden to keep it looking and growing nicely and productively. But one of the most frequent questions people ask is “How often and how much?” It should be so easy to reply this with a simple answer. How about, “An inch a week?” Sounds good to me. “But what is an inch and what if it rains?” Ok, you want a hard answer. Here goes.

Unless you are growing a water garden or swamp plants, the general rule is that plants do not like wet feet. They like moist soil. That means that the soil is damp throughout the root zone. The inch a week number is a typical amount for well drained, fertile soil. Sandy soil requires more while clay soils might demand less. That means that most people are just guessing when they need to water. Overwatering is wasteful and perhaps damaging to the plant. Underwatering is just as bad. The simplest way to check a garden is to stick your finger in the soil (about 3-4 inches). If it comes up dry, water. If it comes up with damp soil sticking to it, wait until tomorrow. Having said that, hot dry weather will dry plants out faster than cooler, humid weather. In short, check regularly.

If you use a sprinkler of your yard or garden, the water is broadcast across a large area with varying amounts reaching each part. The simplest way to monitor is to put several clean, empty tuna fish cans around the area. They are about 1 inch deep. When most of the cans are full or nearly so, you have watered enough for today. If you have a sprinkler system, you can calculate the amount based on the amount and number of emitters in the line. Soaker hoses are variable and usually expect experience to tell you when enough is enough. Use your finger in the area at the end of the line to see if it has gotten enough water.

A more efficient way is to monitor your free water regularly (rainfall). Rain is the cleanest and purest water you can put on the garden and should be the baseline to start your water planning. But there is a catch to this otherwise simple approach. You need to know how much water fell on your garden rather than what the weather man on television tells you fell on your area.

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Jul	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2.99"	3.86"	4.06"	3.23"	4.76"	4.33"	2.13	2.36"	2.56"	4.96"	3.74"	3.98"

If you look up the Athens Texas Average Annual Rainfall, you will find that it looks like this.

This looks nice and consistent with a total of 42.96" per year. If we knew that this amount would fall regularly, we wouldn't need many hoses or to worry about watering very often. Unfortunately, Mother Nature doesn't like to make life that simple. Take a look at the actual rainfall for Athens for the past four years.

“Weather” or Not to Water (cont.)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	5.66"	2.86"	2.61"	3.07"	2.61"	3.18"	2.37"	4.48"	0.31"	3.43"	1.60"	5.42"
2016	1.42"	1.17"	8.65"	8.58"	6.10"	4.97"	0.54"	5.66"	0.71"	1.78"	2.61"	2.57"
2015	6.08"	3.10"	7.77"	9.48"	14.73"	3.35"	0.00"	2.63"	0.30"	15.78"	8.45"	10.53"
2014	0.49"	1.79"	1.40"	2.24"	3.37"	4.77"	5.16"	1.07"	0.14"	6.71"	3.58"	1.26"

For 2014 and 2017, we were 6-10" short of our average rainfall. In 2015, we were just over our average but in 2016, we had almost double our annual average rainfall. Planning your watering under these variable conditions is very difficult.

But again, this is the official average rainfall. What I care about is how much rain falls on My Garden! The only way to be certain is to use a rain gauge. It does not have to be super accurate but should measure at least in 1/10 of an inch. Put it somewhere where it is open to the sky (not under a tree); then check and log it after a rain event. How much difference will it make in your garden? Here is my monthly rain totals for the past three years. For the record, I am right on the county line between Henderson and Van Zandt counties about 16 miles from either city.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec.
2017	5.50"	2.15"	2.67"	5.15"	3.16"	5.16"	4.38"	3.10"	0.19"	3.58"	0.24"	4.25"
2016	1.60"	0.00"	9.85"	12.5"	6.80"	7.15"	1.60"	6.25"	1.80"	2.25"	2.80"	1.85"
2015	4.11"	3.21"	6.65"	9.06"	13.6"	3.20"	0.15"	4.25"	0.10"	16.25"	8.60"	8.30"

In round numbers, the total annual rain fall is similar, but as you can see, there was over an inch difference in almost half of the monthly measurements. Knowing what the rainfall on your garden is, can help reduce over-and underwatering and may make a huge difference in the productivity of your garden.









**STATE MASTER
GARDENER TEXAS
SUPERSTAR PLANT
SPECIALIST
TRAINING**







The State Master Gardener-Texas Superstar Plant Specialist Training was created as an intensive multi-day training that helps empower Master Gardeners with knowledge and skills required to effectively support and multiply Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service efforts in Earth-Kind environmental educational programs in their counties.

Hosted by Smith County Master Gardeners
Association
September 18 - 20

Comfort Suites Hotel
303 Rieck Rd.
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 534-0999

Early Bird Registration: Until July 13th \$200, after
July 13th registration is \$225

For more information please call 903-590-2980

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will provide support and assistance in program and resource selection and implementation of projects and activities. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will provide support and assistance in program and resource selection and implementation of projects and activities. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will provide support and assistance in program and resource selection and implementation of projects and activities. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will provide support and assistance in program and resource selection and implementation of projects and activities.

Why I Became a Master Gardener

Lydia Holley, Master Gardener



I became a Master Gardener because I was driving my husband nuts! I spoke about gardening, plants, planting, harvesting, designing, mulching, tools, etc. All the time. He often got that glazed look in his eyes, so I decided I needed some more friends – some gardening friends.

I had thought about the Master Gardener program for a long time. Although I wasn't exactly sure what they did, I jumped in and signed up for the class. It covered a wider range of topics than I ever expected, and much more plant taxonomy than I ever imagined. I now look at plants differently. They are not just pretty; they are interesting organisms.

My years of volunteering with HCMGA have been exciting. I have volunteered on several of our projects and programs, and have a healthy respect for all the time and effort it takes for each educational opportunity to be offered to the public. Impressive, too, are the backgrounds of the Master Gardeners in our group, and our use of their varied gifts and talents.

My expectations of becoming a Master Gardener have been exceeded. I have learned so much more than I could by myself, am surrounded by a community of garden- and plant-loving people, and now have lots of friends that I can talk "plant" to.

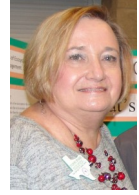
If you have any desire to become a Master Gardener, for whatever reason (each Master Gardener has their own), I encourage you to do so. I believe you will be as pleased with that decision as I have been.

More information regarding the Master Gardener program can be found on the following page.



Becoming a Master Gardener

Yvonne Sparks, President, Henderson County Master Gardeners Association



Why become a Master Gardener?

For every Master Gardener, there is a story about why they chose to join this organization. Your reason for joining will be personal to you. Most of us wanted in some way to have fun, learn more, meet other gardeners, and share our knowledge and love of plants with others in the community.

What do Master Gardeners in Henderson County do?

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer program designed to provide public education in horticulture and gardening in Henderson County.

- We host several types of educational events throughout the year including:
 - ◇ Library Series— monthly speakers provide topics to educate the public
 - ◇ Summer Series— workshops with speakers to provide more detailed information on interesting topics
 - ◇ Fall Conference— guest speaker and dinner (also a fund raising event)
- We maintain the DREAM (Demonstrate, Research, Educate, Apply and Maintain) Garden at the East Texas Arboretum
- We consult with schools and teaching gardens to educate the youth
- We maintain a speakers bureau for area groups and community organizations on numerous garden-related topics
- We publish *The Inside Dirt*, an informative and entertaining e-newsletter
- We grow plants and host an annual plant sale
- Our group provides answers to gardening questions at many community functions
- We publish weekly articles in local newspapers about gardening

We are constantly expanding the number and type of programs we offer to the community.

Who are Master Gardeners?

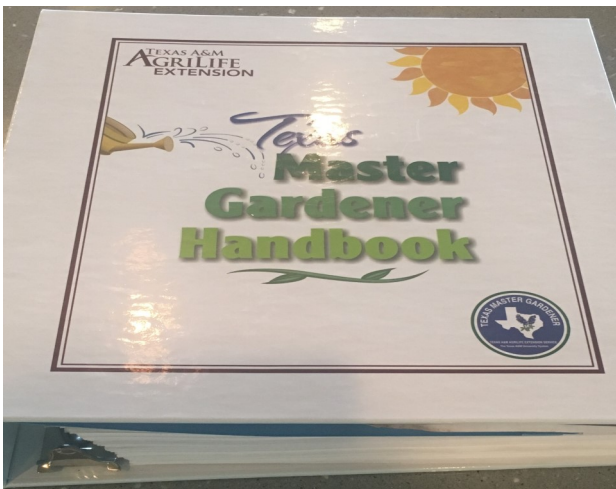
We are a diverse group of people from all backgrounds who share a love of gardening. What sets us apart from other gardeners is the specialist training we receive and our commitment to continuous training and education.

Becoming a Master Gardener (cont.)

When, where and how do you become a Master Gardener in Henderson County?

There are five steps:

- 1) Live in Henderson County
- 2) Fill out an application by early August. This application seeks basic information: Name, address, gardening experience, etc. Contact Extension Agent Spencer Perkins at 903-675-6130 for an application or more information. Applications will also be available on txmg.org/hendersonmg.
- 3) Volunteers must pass a criminal background check. This is important for us to present to schools and other community organizations.
- 4) Take a 13-week class. Register at Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC)— you will be registered in their horticulture class. **Classes start August 31 and meet every Friday (9:00 am– 2:00pm).** Combined cost for the class and Master Gardener Manual (see below) is approximately \$200. Classes are held on the TVCC campus in Athens. The classes include expert speakers on various topics as well as field trips.
- 5) Complete volunteer requirements. After completion of the class, interns are required to volunteer a minimum of 50 hours to the Master Gardener program over the course of a year. In order to retain certification you will need to monthly Master Gardener meetings, volunteer during the year, and complete continuing education requirements.



The handbook/binder is loaded with great information on lawns, soils, plants, diseases and more!



After the training and volunteer hours you receive a much deserved certificate!

Call Spencer Perkins at 903-675– 6130 and sign up today!

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Judy Haldeman, Master Gardener



According to Texas A&M and the EPA, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. The goal is to manage pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

- Attract and maintain beneficial insect to our gardens. Find out which bugs are beneficial and which are harmful.
- Plant Texas native and adapted plants. See austintexas.gov and enter “native and adapted plant guide” for a downloadable guide for plants-with pictures, care and information. Texas Smartscape at www.txsmartscape.com is an interactive site that gives or Native and adaptive plants for north central Texas. On the home page click on the “hamburger” (3 horizontal lines) for plant search. There you can enter information about the type of plants you want to grow in your part of Texas.
 1. Native gardens will provide food for pollinators like honeybees, native bees, butterflies, and moths
 2. Native gardens also provide habitats for these pollinators and other creatures that keep nature in balance.
 3. Native and adapted plants use less water
 - ◇ An average household used 3000+ gallons of water a week for garden irrigation
 - ◇ Running a sprinkler for 2 hours uses approximately 500 gallons of water
 - ◇ 70% of water used at home is used outdoors
- Do not use broad spectrum insecticides that will kill beneficial as well as harmful insects.
- Rely on natural predators to control pests.

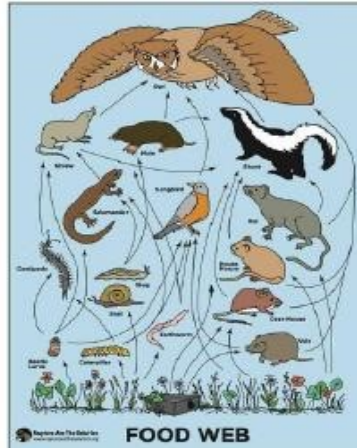


Integrated Pest Management (cont.)

The posters below were presented by several speakers at the recent Texas Master Gardener Conference. They illustrate the important concepts of IMP.



Protect our honey bees!



When you use poisons on pests, remember that the critters throughout the food chain will be affected by your choices. They will either die because of the poisons that they eat or move to an area that has food available



How Your Garden Can Look Good In 100 Degree Heat

Lydia Holley, Master Gardener



When the heat is on, how do you make your garden look good? There are several ways:

Choose plants that continue to bloom in high heat. In my garden, that means: abelias, rock rose (Pavonia), salvias of several kinds (I have 'Black and Blue', 'Indigo Spires', 'May Night', and 'Hot Lips', among others), Russian sage (Perovskia), Turk's cap (Malvaviscus), crape myrtle, cannas, zinnias, and ornamental ginger.

I keep the butterflies happy with butterfly bush (Buddleja) and butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa) which continue to bloom during our hottest days. Hummingbirds are happy all summer with Mexican petunias (Ruellia) and Crocosmia. Occasionally cannas, daylilies, and roses will add to the number of blooms in my summer garden.

If you are interested in finding other plants that bloom during the hottest part of summer, I suggest you visit **HCMGA's DREAM Garden** inside the East Texas Arboretum. It always is full of beautiful and abundant blooms.

If you don't want a riot of color, but would like your garden to feel cool, soothing and relaxing, plant only evergreens. I have a small area in my garden that has Asian jasmine (Trachelospermum asiaticum) surrounding a pond, all bordered by boxwoods. In the winter, it is nice to see something green. In the summer, the greenery is restful to the eye (although the Asian jasmine tries to take over the world and you can almost see it growing), and the splashing sound of water is calming. You can also combine the two, making an area filled with evergreens, then add a few summer blooming plants. It will be green all winter and have a pop of color and a nod to the change of seasons in summer.

Whichever way you choose to go, your garden can look good - even in 100 degree heat.



Flowering Ginger



Butterfly on Milkweed

Green area with roses



Master Gardener Specialist Training Opportunities

Junior Master Gardener— 7/24-26, Corinth, TX

The Junior Master Gardener® Program is growing good kids by igniting a passion for learning, success, and service through a unique gardening education. This dynamic and intensive 2-1/2 day training conference is designed for those who are coordinating or supporting JMG® programs at the local, county, and regional level.

Vegetables— 9/4-6, San Antonio, TX

Multi-day training focused on growing vegetables. Includes a field trip to the San Antonio Botanical Garden

Texas Superstars—9/18-20 Tyler, TX

An intensive multi-day training that will help empower certified Master Gardeners with knowledge and skills required to support the efforts in EarthKind environmental educational programs in their counties.

Training and Volunteer Requirements: Specialist training should be a minimum of 16 hours in length. Hours of training will depend on subject matter and level of expertise to be obtained. Training might include: formal classroom training, field trips and tours, mentoring by experts, and/or self-directed study. Following completion of the training requirement, an individual should complete a minimum 20 hours of volunteer service in a designated program or project to obtain this title of Master Gardener Specialist.

Spencer's Talk

Spencer Perkins, Henderson County Extension Agent

Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers are among the most widespread and damaging pests in Texas. Approximately 150 species of grasshoppers are known to exist in the state; however, only five species cause 90 percent of the damage to crops, gardens, trees and shrubs.

These insects cause some damage every year, but become very destructive during outbreak periods. An often-asked question during outbreak years is: Why are there so many? Weather is the main factor affecting grasshopper populations. Outbreaks are usually preceded by several years of hot, dry summers and warm autumns. Dry weather increases nymph and adult survival. Warm autumns allow grasshoppers more time to feed and lay eggs. Cool, wet weather slows nymphal development and reduces the number of eggs laid. Cool wet Springs increase the incidence of diseases and reduces grasshopper numbers. This year with high temps and no rain we are likely to have high populations of grasshoppers. Grasshoppers have a high reproductive capacity.

The female can lay an average of 200 eggs during a single season. Under favorable conditions up to 400 eggs can be laid. Approximately 40 eggs can be laid even if unfavorable conditions exist. Thus, 10 times more eggs can be produced during favorable conditions. With an average of 200 eggs per female, 198 eggs or young grasshoppers would have to die if the population were to remain the same.



Spencer's Talk (cont.)

If, instead of only two adults surviving, there are four, six, eight, ten or fifty then the adult population the following year will be increased two, three, four, five or twenty five times, respectively. Farmers and ranchers should watch for grasshoppers early in the season and begin control measures while grasshoppers are in the nymphal stages and still within hatching sites (roadsides, fencerows, etc.).

There are a number of advantages in treating grasshoppers early: 1) fewer acres will have to be treated and less insecticide is necessary to obtain control; 2) grasshoppers are killed before they have had the opportunity to cause significant crop loss; 3) smaller grasshoppers are more susceptible to insecticides than larger hoppers; 4) early treatment before grasshoppers reach maturity prevents migration of the winged (flying) adult stage and egg laying, which may help reduce the grasshopper threat for the following crop year. Grasshopper infestation levels can be estimated by surveying for nymphs or adults. One method is the square-foot method. In the area to be sampled, count the number of grasshoppers that hop or move within a square foot area. With 15 to 20 paces between each square-foot sample, conduct 18 square-foot samples and divide the total number of grasshoppers by two to obtain the number per square yard. If the grasshopper's are predominantly first to third instar, (wingless and generally less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long), divide the number by three to give the adult equivalent. Consider fourth instar nymphs and above as adults. Control will generally be necessary when square-yard counts reach the threatening level of 21 - 40 in the margins or 1 - 14 in the field. -3- When grasshopper populations reach the economic threshold, or when crops are threatened a treatment program may need to be considered. You can contact the County Extension Agent or your Ag retailer for more information on recommended insecticides.

Please give me a call with any other questions, at 903-675-6130, or email me at spencer.perkins@ag.tamu.edu.



Henderson County Master Gardeners

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer development program offered by Texas AgriLife Extension Service by disseminating horticultural information to individuals and groups in Henderson County and to develop and continue community projects related to horticulture. We are a group of volunteers who share a love of gardening and are eager to learn and share their knowledge.



Henderson County Master Gardeners

Contact: Angela Hemphill

Henderson County Extension Office

Office: (903) 675-6130

Fax: (903) 677-7222

Courthouse 3rd Floor, RM 300

100 E Tyler St

Athens, Texas 75751-2547

hendersoncmga@gmail.com

'Learn at the Library' Series

"Compost Tea and Worm Castings for Your Garden"

July 17th—5:30 pm—6:30 pm

Sherri Doss, Owner of Bluebonnet Worm Farm, will share her knowledge of using worm castings and compost tea to benefit your garden.



The Library Series is open to the public and is held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library in Athens, TX.

'Summer Series'

"Simple Irrigation with a Drip System"

Aug 9th—6:30 pm—8:00 pm



Keith Daniel, Jasper County Master Gardener will present a workshop on drip irrigation.

The Summer Series is open to the public and is held from at the Athens Sr. Citizens Center 3344 TX-31, Athens, TX (next to Rodeo Arena)

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Texas master gardeners