



INSIDE DIRT



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message

David Bickerstaff, Master Gardener

We have experienced unprecedented times since our last edition of *Inside Dirt!* At the time of writing this message, the country is beginning to slowly open up from the pandemic and we are trying to determine the new normal. Our association was required to cancel our community educational events during this time, but our projects were maintained by a small staff where social distancing could occur.



As president of Henderson County Master Gardeners Association, I've been amazed to see how many people are turning to their gardens and nature to find solace. Green spaces, it seems, are healing spaces. We have also seen interest from many county residents that have not previously experienced gardening. Some are reminded of Victory Gardens which were vegetable,

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?



fruit, and herb gardens planted at private residences and public parks in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Germany during World War I and World War II. Governments encouraged people to plant victory gardens not only to supplement their rations but also to boost morale. After experiencing shortage in various food products at the grocery stores during the pandemic, many residents are now seeking opportunities to be a bit more

in control of their food supply. Planting a vegetable garden can help feed your family and allow the you to spend time outside while social distancing. There is nothing more rewarding than harvesting and eating fresh, home grown vegetables.

Our Master Gardeners will focus on educational opportunities to assist with



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this interest and our new Harvest Garden will provide a hands-on training experience with fruits, vegetables and herbs. The grand opening of the Harvest Garden has been moved to the fall of 2020.

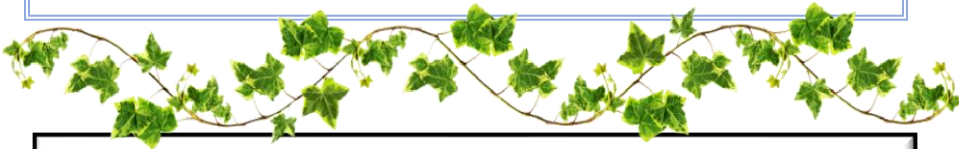
We are following the COVID-19 health guidelines and hope to begin serving the public and providing horticultural information as soon as possible.

Please enjoy reading this issue of *Inside Dirt* and happy gardening!

“Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years.”

~ Unknown

David Bickerstaff, President HCMGA



Help in Growing Your Own Food

By Lydia Holley, Master Gardener

If you have been considering growing your own food, but are unsure which plants do well in East Texas, when to plant, best practices for growing, or how to preserve your harvest, you will want to visit the Harvest Garden, Henderson County Master Gardener Association's newest project. Designed to teach the public how to grow edibles, the garden showcases vegetables, herbs, grapes, berries, fruit trees, a hoop house for seed starting, and even a cutting garden for bouquets.

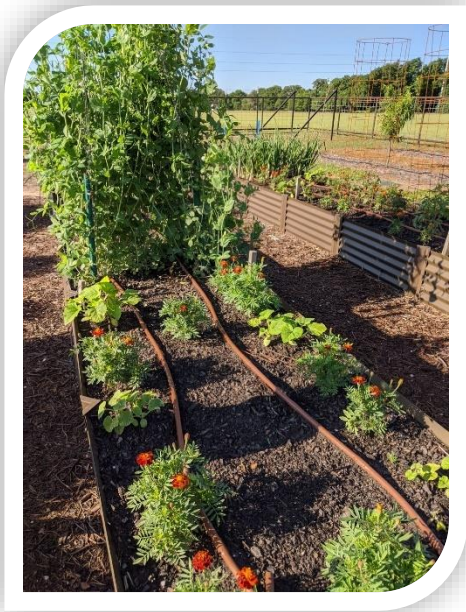
The garden's Grand Opening, originally scheduled for May 9, has been postponed due to the pandemic, but that has not stopped the plants from growing.

Fruit trees have been pruned and are full of leaves soaking up the sun's rays, ready to put on fruit later in the season. Four types of tomatoes are reaching toward the sky. Planting various varieties allows the public to decide which will best fit their needs. Shallots and onions are almost ready to be harvested. Short day onions were chosen so they would bulb before the heat sets in.

Purple hull peas and Blue Lake beans, both bush types, will mature and be harvested as the days grow longer. Sugar snap beans are producing now and will soon be replaced with hot weather crops, such as okra or sweet potato. Crookneck and patty pan squash are in bloom, hinting at the promising harvest to come this summer. Pepper plants should also mature at the same time.

HCMGA Projects

- **Children's Garden:** HCMGA is available for consultation on school or teaching gardens.
- **DREAM Garden:** (Demonstrate, Research, Educate, Apply, Maintain) The HCMGA maintains a cottage-style ornamental garden at the East Texas Arboretum in Athens.
- **Fall Conference:** The largest fundraiser for HCMGA, this conference includes a guest speaker, possible raffles and/or auctions and a dinner.
- **Greenhouse:** The HCMGA maintains a greenhouse located at Trinity Valley Community College. This greenhouse allows us to propagate and grow plants that are sold at our annual spring plant sale.
- **Harvest Garden:** The HCMGA's newest project, the Harvest Garden, is a teaching garden on growing fruits and vegetables with hands-on demonstrations. It is located inside the Regional Fairpark Complex.
- **Library Series:** Educational presentations are hosted by the HCMGA on the third Tuesday of each month. These programs are open to the public at the Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library in Athens.
- **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 to share expertise and educate the public on various gardening topics.



Grapes are growing up special trellising. Several varieties were planted so you can see and taste the grapes. to add to your own garden. Blueberries are loaded with fat, juicy berries. Raspberries will Raspberries will soon follow.

Herbs are loving the warm days. These can be used in cooking and/or medicinally. The scents from this portion of the garden are intoxicating. The hoop house will be filled this winter with strawberry plants in anticipation of selling them at next year's plant sale. The cutting garden's plants are beginning to emerge and bloom. It was divided into three sections for early, mid and late blooming varieties.

Even though the Henderson County Regional FairPark Complex, 3356 State Hwy 31E, Athens, is currently closed, Master Gardeners hope you will soon be able to visit and learn everything you need to know to grow your own fruit, vegetables, and herbs. This will give you a sense of pride as well as security. From seed starting through harvesting and preserving, the Harvest Garden will become a place for education, demonstration, and inspiration. The new Grand Opening date will be announced soon.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com, or visit txmq.org/hendersonmq.



Short History of The Victory Garden

Information culled by **David Bickerstaff**, Master Gardener

Promoted through propaganda posters advocating that civilians "Sow the seeds of victory" by planting their own vegetables, the war garden movement (as it was originally known) was spread by word of mouth through numerous women's clubs, civic associations and chambers of commerce, which actively encouraged participation in the campaign. Amateur gardeners were provided with instruction pamphlets on how, when and where to sow, and were offered suggestions as to the best crops to plant, along with tips on preventing disease and insect infestations.



The endeavor was so well received that the government turned its attention to distributing canning and drying manuals to help people preserve their surplus crops. In addition to the appeal to men and women, the federal Bureau of Education initiated a U.S. School Garden Army (USSGA) to mobilize children to enlist as "soldiers of the soil." As a result of these combined efforts, 3 million new garden plots were planted in 1917 and more than 5.2 million were cultivated in 1918, which generated an estimated 1.45 million quarts of canned fruits and vegetables. By the end of World War I, the campaign promoting home gardens—which by then were referred to as "victory gardens"—had dropped off, but many people continued to maintain them.

LIBRARY SERIES

**Programing on hold until public gatherings are again allowed.
Watch our website for details.**

Library Series meets the **3rd Tuesday** of every month. All presentations are held at the **Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library**, 121 S. Prairieville, Athens at 5:30pm. Come early as all presentations start on time and last for an hour. For details on the above presentations, visit us at <https://txmg.org/hendersonmg/welcome/events/learn-at-the-library-series/>



Henderson County Master Gardeners

The master Gardener program is a volunteer development program, offered by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, that disseminates horticultural information to individuals and groups in Henderson County. The mission is to develop and cultivate community projects related to horticulture. We are a group of volunteers who share a love of gardening and are eager to learn and share our knowledge.

**Visit our website and watch the *Inside Dirt* for
celebration details**

Gardening Reaches New Heights of Popularity

Susan Skommesa, Master Gardener

Around the country, shortages at the store, coupled with being home-bound during this pandemic, has resulted in a renewed surge of interest in gardening. NPR featured a headline on May 27th, [Fearing Shortages, People Are Planting More Vegetable Gardens](#).

Candice Aviles wrote for Florida's News 10 [Tampa's gardening business booming during quarantine](#). The sub-headline was: "With more people spending more time inside due to the coronavirus, the gardening industry is experiencing a boom."

Closer to home, The Dallas News published an article titled: [Quarantine Garden Boom: Local Growers are delivering Starter Food Farms Right to Your Doors: Garden Centers remain open as a food cultivation source as consumers seek to start a new version of victory gardens](#).

There is a plethora of articles like these all over the internet. One study showed a 50% increase in garden related purchases this past month, compared to the same month in previous years. In that study, house plants, succulents, ornamentals and landscaping purchases remained constant. What flew off the shelves were food related purchases like vegetable plants, seeds, and soil.

In uncertain times, people want to know how to be self-sufficient. Articles I found on the web like: *7 Tips for Gardening During Quarantine (For Beginners)*, *Starting A Veg Garden During Quarantine*, *How to Build A Garden and Grow Your Own Food During the Corona Virus Outbreak* show the need for the Master gardener's skill set and TAMU AgriLife training.

When the need for social distancing is over, Henderson County Master Gardener's educational classes are the perfect place to get to know the ins-and-outs of gardening specific to our East Texas soil and climate. You can find these classes at our new [Harvest Garden Training Center](#) and through our monthly [Learn at the Library Series](#). There is a plethora of educational materials on our [website](#) and [facebook page](#) that features educational articles and upcoming community events. In addition, right now, you can sign up for the Master Gardener class that will meet once a week beginning September 4th. You can gain an enormous amount of gardening information in 12 weeks by clicking [on this link](#), scrolling to the bottom, and downloading the application to register.

Resources for Natives Plants

Filling your garden with native plants may seem like quite the challenge. Which plants are native? Where do you find them? How do you care for them? The HCMGA **Monthly Gardening Guide** has an article on Earth-Kind from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. In that article are listed many native grasses, groundcovers, perennials, shrubs and trees of all sizes, as well as vines. The index lists about 325 plants, trees, shrubs, and vines, by both their common name, as well as their scientific name. The natives all have stars next to them. Here are a couple more awesome resources:

- Native Plant Society of Texas: <https://npsot.org/wp/>
- Ladybird Johnson Wild Flower Center: <https://www.wildflower.org/magazine/landscapes/natural-accents> - click on "South Central Plains"
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/> and <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/solutions/best-plants-trees-grow-texas-landscapes/>
- Texas A&M Agriculture Program: <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/>
- Texas A&M East Texas Gardening: <https://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu/east-texas-home-gardening/plants-for-east-texas/>

Calendar of Events

May

5/10 Mother's Day
5/25 Memorial Day

June

6/20 First Day of Summer
6/21 Father's Day



Events Around Town



- ✓ **May's Virtual Seminars - Texas A&M AgriLife's Dallas Center** <https://dallas.tamu.edu/events/>
 - May 12 - Horti-Couture: What's HOT for 2020
 - May 14 - Plant Combos & Companions
 - May 16 - Family Friendly Gardening
 - May 19 - UlandscapeIT: Water Efficient Landscape Design
 - May 21 - Selecting the Perfect Turf
 - May 28 - Landscape CPR
- ✓ **June's Seminar - Texas A&M AgriLife's Dallas Center** <https://dallas.tamu.edu/events/> *At this time the classes are listed as being at various locations. Go to their website for information on great classes and their location.*

Here are some websites I usually comb through to find events for this section on **Events Around Town**. As Social gathering restrictions are relaxed, visit these websites to see if there is something going on.

- ✓ **Henderson County Master Gardener Association:** <https://txmg.org/hendersonmg/>
- ✓ **East Texas Arboretum and Botanical Society:** <http://www.easttexasarboretum.org/>
- ✓ **Texas A&M AgriLife's Dallas Center:** <https://dallas.tamu.edu/events/>
- ✓ **Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens:** <https://www.dallasarboretum.org/>
- ✓ **Texas Parks and Wildlife:** <https://tpwd.texas.gov/>
- ✓ **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center:** <https://www.wildflower.org/>
- ✓ **Smith County Master Gardeners:** <https://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/>
- ✓ **Kaufman County Master Gardener Association:** <https://www.kcmga.org/events-4/>
- ✓ **Free State Master Gardeners Association of Van Zandt County:** <https://txmg.org/freestatemastergardeners/>

Jumping Spiders

By **Susan Skommesa**, Master Gardener

With spring comes all kinds of critters, and what would a gardening newsletter be without its critter article? This spring, I had my first run-in with a Jumping Spider...actually several...in one week! Given its menacing appearance, I was compelled to do a bit of research. In general, I don't want to kill a critter if it is beneficial to pests – unless it dares to come into my house.

Jumping Spiders are so common, that I quickly found out a lot of interesting information. The most valuable of course, being that as dangerous as they look, these critters are not harmful to humans.



Here in Texas, Jumping Spiders inhabit grasslands and prairies, and as such, feed on a wide variety of insects. Some of the jumping spider's favorite food sources include Bollworms, Cotton leaf worms, Stink bugs, Mosquitoes, and Webworms. Therefore, they do have their beneficial place.

Interestingly, jumping spiders can be found in just about every habitat in the world, except for extreme polar regions. Although they can be found in chillier climates, they mostly reside in tropical areas.

Jumping Spiders are not considered dangerous to humans due to the fact that their venom is not generally strong enough to harm people.

Also, jumping spiders are more likely to flee or jump away when

threatened. However, if threatened or crushed, Jumping Spiders will bite to defend themselves. Their bites can cause mild or slight localized pain, itching, and mild swelling.

The Jumping Spider of course gets its common name from its jumping ability, which it uses to catch prey. They belong to the Family Salticidae. There are more than 4,000 known species of jumping spiders in the world, with about 300 species found in the United States and Canada. The critter visiting me, pictured to the right, is also known as the zebra spider, *Salticus scenicus*.

It'd be easy to think that these tiny creatures, which are no bigger than the tip of your thumb, have insanely muscular legs, given their ability to leap up to 50 times their own body length. This is not the case, however. Instead, jumping spiders rely on segmented legs and blood flow to make their notoriously creepy jumps. When they're ready to launch, the spiders cause an extreme change in hemolymph pressure. This is the spider equivalent of blood pressure. They do this by contracting the muscles in the upper region of their bodies. This forces the blood to their legs, causing the legs to extend rapidly. This quick and sudden extension of their legs is what propels them in the direction they're aiming. In addition, Jumping Spiders spin a quick line of silk that they use as a dragline. This allows the spiders to stabilize their landing, while acting like a sort of safety net if they need to stop in mid-jump.





Jumping spiders don't use webs to hunt. They find a target, extend their legs and launch after their meal. A little bit of venom and it's dinnertime. Most Jumping Spiders eat small insects, but there are species that eat plant matter, and another that eats nectar. They can take down a prey far larger than themselves.

Perhaps even more weird than their jumping, is their eyes. They have two smaller eyes on either side of two large eyes that rest in the center of their rectangular heads. The two larger eyes function as telescopes. Their eyes are basically immobile lenses with a long fluid filled tube extending down from those eyes. The liquid causes light to bend, essentially functioning as a second lens. The eyes themselves collect and focus light while this liquid spreads it out. This process allows the spiders to see a massive amount of detail. Additionally, the spiders' retinas can swivel, allowing the spider to look around without moving its head.

Jumping spiders sing and dance to woo a mate. Male spiders attempt to dance their way into a potential mate's heart by wiggling and writhing in special ways. Additionally, each male spider sings its own song with

buzzes, scrapes, clicks and taps on the ground. The vibrations travel along the ground and into the female's legs and are picked up by her sensory hairs. The challenge for the male is to impress the female. Because if he doesn't, the female may devour the male.



What Blossoms!



Henderson County Master Gardener Association

~~ Members Page ~~

2020 HCMGA Meetings

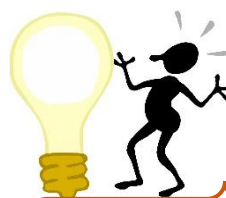
When: Noon (luncheon), 3rd
Wednesday of the month

Where: Richard M. Hart & Johnny
Morris Conservation Center
5601 Country Road 4812 Athens, TX 75752

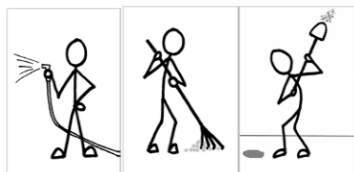
- * May 20th
- * June 17th
- * July 15th
- * August 19th
- * September 16th
- * October 21st
- * November 18th
- * December 16th

For information on how to become a Master Gardener

- ✓ Call: (903) 675-6130
- ✓ Email: hendersoncmga@gmail.com
- ✓ Visit: txmg.org/hendersonmg

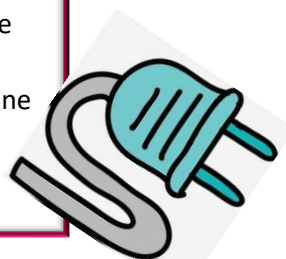


*Master Gardeners,
remember to
record your hours!*



Try something new in 2020

HCMGA has many projects that need you! If you are not **plugged** in yet, one of our projects will fit your schedule, energy level, and mobility. Talk to someone to explore a good fit for you.



Member's Meetings: Tentatively Scheduled: May 20th !

Exercise in Beauty

By Lydia Holley, Master Gardener



Henderson County Master Gardener Association has long maintained a cottage style garden, called the Dream Garden, at the East Texas Arboretum, 1601 Patterson Road, Athens. The Arboretum remains open despite the Covid-19 pandemic, although social distancing is requested.

Henderson County Master Gardeners have not met as a group since mid-March. Projects have been maintained with a skeleton crew of volunteers. Master Gardeners Carl and Cindy Beck have continued to maintain the Dream Garden. It is always beautiful, but this spring, it is glorious. We have had sufficient rain, warm days, and cool nights, all which have helped to prolong the bloom time on many plants.

This is the perfect time to meander the pathways through the Dream Garden. Cindy Beck reports that you can expect to see numerous plants in bloom, including “Iris, phlox, roses, penstemon, stone crop sedum, poppies, echinacea, yarrow, dianthus, amaryllis, wine cup, coral honeysuckle, coreopsis, blue salvia, and standing verbena.” That is a long list of blooms to see!

The main attraction, however, is a plant that has not one flower on it right now. Instead, it has striking dark purple foliage. It is the Forest Pansy redbud (*Cercis*

canadensis). This small tree, which grows to 20 or 30 ft tall, is an East Texas native that flowers in early spring. Afterward, Forest Pansy puts out dramatic, colorful foliage which greens up in summer. If you are looking for a tree with double the drama, there is a weeping variety of Eastern redbud known as Ruby Falls.

Eastern redbuds can be planted in full sun, although it would ideally appreciate some afternoon shade, as most of us do in summer in Texas. A deciduous tree, redbuds lose their leaves in fall, leaving a striking skeleton in winter. Because Eastern redbuds are nitrogen-fixing, they do not need much fertilizer.

If you are wanting to get out of the house for relaxation or exercise, you may wish to visit the Arboretum. Make a special effort to stroll along the Dream Garden’s pathways. The beauty there is sure to renew your spirit.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com, or visit txmq.org/hendersonmq.



Spring Rain Brings Vegetables!

Susan Skommesa, Master Gardener



Between the abundance of rain and moderate cool temperatures throughout the latter part of this past winter and into spring, I've had my best vegetable garden and most abundant strawberry patch since arriving in Texas 4 years ago.

I've moved a lot in my adult life. Everywhere I've lived, I've had a different gardening experience. Different soils, different climates, and different seasonal patterns mean different gardening methods. It usually takes me a couple of seasons to figure out how to grow in any given region.

In LA I didn't have to deal with gophers, so I didn't need raised beds lined in hardware cloth to keep those rascals from stealing my produce. Everywhere else I've lived I've had to gopher proof my hard work.

In LA, I could grow greens for 9 months of the year, as well as some exotic fruits. In the mountains of Southern California, there are 4 distinct seasons. I grew in a greenhouse to lengthen my growing season. That greenhouse produced the sweetest grape tomatoes I ever had in my life; they were like candy. Gardening in Massachusetts was very hard due to the long winter and short growing season. Southern Florida's humidity and blazing sun made growing citrus a breeze, but forget any kind of greens.

This spring I am exuberant over my harvest! Onions, broccoli, lettuce, strawberries, carrots, green and purple cabbage, chard and collard greens. We like to juice veggies and eat lots of salad. Most of it has come from the garden over this past month.

The new [HCMGA Harvest Garden](#) and [Master Gardener class](#), are resources that can give any new or seasoned gardener the knowledge necessary to master gardening in our East Texas soil and climate.





Did you know?



Wow, I didn't know!

The HCMGA Website has a lot of good information. We have articles on a variety of gardening topics and events our organization hosts. This newsletter (*Inside Dirt*) is but an appetizer for the depth and breadth of topics, pictures, and great practical information you will find in that treasure trove, which gets added to every week by member writers.

<https://txmg.org/hendersonmg/welcome/our-impact/publicity/>

May & June Gardening Tips

By Susan Skommesa, Master Gardener

In General:

Regular activities include weeding, fertilizing, and mowing. Through May, we'll want to keep an eye on the weather to ensure adequate rain falls. Otherwise, supplemental watering may become necessary. Come June however, consistent watering begins.

Love veggies and herbs?

Harvesting the greens will come to an end as the temperature climbs. Oh, so sad, because this winter/spring garden was beautiful. The cool temperatures and abundance of rain brought forth an amazing harvest. Compost your cool-season crops that have nothing left to offer.

However, one cannot be sad for long, because other veggies will be reaching maturity. As Tomatoes and Peppers set first fruit, a light application of side dressing will keep plants robust while producing the maximum amount of fruit. Continue harvesting and weed as needed.



Keep an eye out for pests, especially aphids which are happiest on new plant growth. Look under leaves, and watch for holes or yellowing of leaves to signal you that you have visitors. Some beneficial insects that are natural enemies of aphids include ladybugs, lacewings, and parasitic wasps. You can order these online or inquire at your local garden center. Remember however, not all crawly things are pests. They are your friend if they eat what wants to eat your harvest. If you are not sure, contact the local AgriLife Extension Office for identification. Keep the good guys around.

The single, most important factor in a successful vegetable garden is water. Too much or not enough is never a good thing. Keep soil evenly moist. Add mulch to control evaporation and keep the ground cool. Do not mulch around Squash plants as mulch provides a hiding place for squash bugs.

If Tomatoes show signs of *Blossom End Rot* (BER), (sunken, brown, leathery bottoms where the blossom was), add calcium to the soil before the next crop is planted. BER results from cold ground, inconsistent water and wet weather turning dry so that the plant cannot take up and distribute calcium throughout the fruit properly. BER usually affects the first set of tomatoes. Add calcium to the soil if you see signs of BER.

How about Flowers?



Continue to plant, water and deadhead flowers as needed. For fuller plants, pinch back Asters and Chrysanthemums. Establish new baskets for summer accents.

There are many flowers that can be seeded now through August, such as Cosmos, Marigolds, Ornamental Sweet Potato, Periwinkle, Portulaca, and Zinnias. Keep the old spent flowers pinched back to encourage reblooming.

There is still time to plant Mums for fall if you can obtain strong healthy container grown plants. Continue to pinch terminal growth on existing established plants to induce more branching.

Spider mites love hot, dry weather. Look for stippled leaves which may indicate the presence of spider mites. A strong stream of water or insecticidal soap should do the trick.

How about trees and shrubs?

Be sure to have adequate organic mulch around trees and shrubs to conserve moisture and keep the soil cooler through the hot summer months. However, make sure the mulch does not touch the trunk so as to not produce rotting. Also, keep in mind that when watering, water as far out as the branches reach out.

Remove flowers regularly on Rose bushes as they fade to encourage new blooms.

Thin emerging fruit from trees in order to promote a healthy harvest. Remove fallen fruit and debris from beneath trees to eliminate sources of insects and fungus.

And what about your grass?

If your lawn has some low places in it, May is a good month for repair work. To repair your lawn, choose a soil which matches your native soil for the fill. Mow and fertilize the lawn prior to applying your selected soil. If needed, plant new sod or plugs. May is the last month to apply broadleaf weed killers before the weather becomes hot.

Once you have mowed your grass several times, and all the grass is in, you can start fertilizing. Continue to fertilize every six weeks in summer until September. Try to fertilize right before a rain or be sure to water well after fertilizing so you will not burn your lawn. Applying lawn fertilizer by hand is not recommended, as the results will be uneven and can damage the grass.



The ***Henderson County Master Gardener Association's Monthly Gardening Guide***, features monthly gardening tasks, tips, and amazing resource lists. Each month features some special article important to successful gardening, or planning for the migration of butterflies, or tips for pruning plants like roses or hydrangeas. All guidance is specific to East Texas, and every month has a page for making notes.

As an example, the month of May features a great article on effective watering, while June gives you details on HCMGA projects. Both months are filled with a ton of helpful information in the ***Tips and Tricks*** section.

If you would like this guide, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com, or visit txmg.org/hendersonmg

Gardens for Kids



Henderson County Master Gardener Yvonne Sparks found a great article at SouthernLiving.com that has awesome garden ideas and activities to do with children. The aim of these ideas is to generate excitement and enthusiasm for gardening.

The ideas include planting sunflowers, growing a mini-garden, digging, planting flowers, painting pots, planting their own pots, growing a victory garden, tending a “surprise” garden, planting fruit seeds, playing with the water hose as the garden is watered, and planting a tree.

I remember planting a garden at the church I pastored in the inner city of Los Angeles years ago. The kids ran out after every service to find

out how much everything had grown since the previous week. Harvesting was a hoot as we’d wash off veggies and eat them immediately, fresh from the ground. It was exciting to see the love of gardening and vegetables grow for kids who only months before, did not know where vegetables came from.

For the full article from Southern Living, click the link: <https://www.southernliving.com/garden/garden-activities-for-kids>

Picture credit: https://images.all-free-download.com/images/graphiclarge/childhood_background_joyful_kids_gardening_theme_cartoon_design_6837818.jpg

Please Share with Us!



There is so much creativity amongst our readers, that I'd like to invite you to share your projects, ideas, clever quotes, humor, pictures or the interesting and beautiful things happening in your gardens or landscaping. You can send a blurb, a quote, an article or contact me to interview you. Photos are always worth a thousand words. Send submissions to the editor, Susan Skommesa, at susanloves1life@gmail.com.



Connect with Us:



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Texas master gardeners



txmg.org/hendersonmg



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The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity, and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.