

Inside Dirt



A Note from our President

By Susan Skommesa

Hello friends! Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) wants to thank you for making our **Plant Sale** a success! By buying your spring plants through us, you are supporting our effort to bring free horticultural education to the community of Henderson County. Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [webpage](#) to discover what workshops we offer each month.



Drum Roll... I am delighted to announce that in a statewide competition with numerous other same membership-sized Master Gardener organizations, HCMGA won three awards. Our **Harvest Garden** won 1st place in the category of Teaching Site. We won 2nd place for the Plant Library on our website in the category of Written Record. If you've never utilized the plant information pages on our website, you are in for a treat. There are hundreds of plant profiles there to assist you in the care of your plants. Master Gardener Dub Hirst's **Presentation on Building a Water Garden** won 3rd place in the category of Workshop Presentation. All of our workshops are free and open to the public.

Thanks for being a part of the work we do to bring you the very best horticultural information, and enjoy your spring blossoms!

Find us online! <https://txmg.org/hendersonmg/>

 <https://www.facebook.com/HCMastergardener>

Growing Volunteers with the Master Gardener Program

- from Agrilife Today

The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service celebrated more than 8,000 volunteers in its Texas Master Gardener program during April, National Volunteer Month, by showing appreciation for their hard work and service. The Texas Master Gardener program is one of the agency's four statewide volunteer programs.

AgriLife Extension hosted their first official Master Gardener class in Montgomery County in 1979, with 25 Texans in attendance. The course was held in the evenings, and AgriLife Extension county agents and specialists along with Texas A&M University specialists gave instruction from a manual of collected publications.

"Our volunteers mean everything; without them, too often the public would go without the solid information to help them be successful in their gardening endeavors," said Jayla Fry, AgriLife Extension program specialist for the Texas Master Gardener program. "I have firsthand experience in knowing that our volunteers are smart, kind, compassionate and a joy to work with. I am so glad to have them as the hands and feet of AgriLife Extension and the Master Gardener program."

The Master Gardener program trains volunteers to increase the availability of homeowner information to the public utilizing social media, speaking events, demonstrations, phone calls and emails. There is always someone on our volunteer team to answer your questions.



A Texas Master Gardener working on the Dallas county urban farm. (Laura McKenzie/Texas A&M Agrilife)

Upcoming Events

Regular Meeting 5/15/24 @ 11am

Let's Grow Gardening Series on Drip Irrigation 05/21/24 @ 6pm • see P4

Regular Meeting 6/19/24 @ 11am

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Gardening Hints for May & June:

May welcomes the approach of summer - a change of season with busy days of gardening to complete spring chores and prep for summer. June, its summer in East Texas and time to enjoy the rewards of the season - fresh vegetables, watermelon, crepe myrtle blooms, and summer annuals make their delightful display.

- Mulch plants.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs.
- Water newly established plants during dry periods.
- Continue to establish new lawn grasses.
- Cultivate annual and perennial beds.
- Feed houseplants often to keep them on the grow.
- Evergreen leaf droppage is normal.
- Water and cultivate around newly planted trees and shrubs.
- Control powdery mildew on Crepe Myrtles and blackspot on Roses.
- Control Insects: aphids, spider mites, lacebugs, bagworms, etc.
- Water, water, water: Water deep! ...and less often.
- Take root cuttings of your favorite plants.
- Harvest garden vegetables often to encourage more production.
- Cut garden flowers for indoor bouquets in the early morning or late afternoon.
- Lightly cultivate soils around annuals, perennial, vegetables and frequently watered plants and keep them mulched.



For a complete list of Fall Gardening Tips, [click here to view our online monthly Gardening Guide.](#)

Master Gardeners Thank You for Your Support

- 2024 Plant Sale Co-Chairs Elizabeth Crowe and Judy Haldeman

We hope you logged into our 4th Online Plant Sale and were able to find the perfect plant to replenish your garden before they sold out. The Greenhouse Team worked tirelessly filling orders and were available for customers to pick up their plants the week after the sale.

Plant pick-up was completed on April 20 at the Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC) Recreational Court in conjunction with an in-person plant sale held that morning. We had almost 120 online orders and sold about 1,300 plants. All Master Gardeners present at the In-Person Sale agreed that visiting with customers and helping them pick appropriate plants for their garden was a pleasure, one that we have missed since online sales began in 2021. Many thanks to everyone who purchased plants! Your support will help fund many of the educational programs we have planned for the rest of this year.



We know you will enjoy the plants you purchased. All of the plants in this year's sale can be found in our searchable [Plant Library](#) or under the [Plant Sale](#) tab on our website. If you want to know which plants in the sale were a Texas Native, a Texas Superstar Plant, or a plant that attracts butterflies, bees, or hummingbirds, you can input that in the search box. The plants from your search will have links to more information about them. The Plant Library is chock full of information about plants we have sold in previous plant sales or that have been planted in one of our Master Gardener Projects.

If you have questions about your plants and if the website doesn't answer your questions, please feel free to send us an email at hendersoncmga@gmail.com. We will answer your questions as soon as possible.

A special thank you goes to all of the Greenhouse volunteers who spent months caring for the plants through chilling and rainy weather. A special thank you is due to those involved in inputting data into the plant sale program and keeping track of the plant inventory. Thank you also to the people involved in Inside Dirt Articles, Newspaper Articles, Save the Date Card, Facebook posts and videos, and to those involved in the radio interview. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the members who shared wonderful plants from their personal gardens.



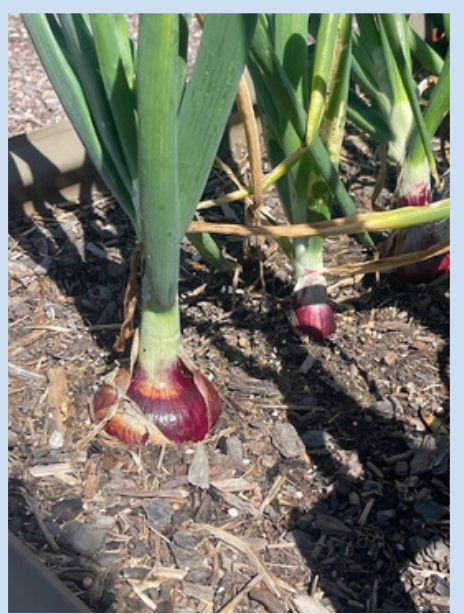
Enjoy your plants!



What's new at the Harvest Garden?

Hey MG John Maloch! What's happening at the Harvest Garden?

- The tomatoes are healthy and beginning to produce.
- We harvested a spring crop of sugar snap peas and will be planting cucumbers in their place for summer.
- The onions will be ready to harvest soon. If you are growing onions, watch for their tops to fall over then you will know it's time.
- The grapes, fruits and berries are developing beautifully.
- The Harvest Garden flowers have benefitted from all the spring rains. The Esperanza has come out - it waits until warm weather is a sure thing.



Now's the time for us to try to cultivate a special garden.

First: Plant four rows of Peas
 Presence
 Promptness
 Persistence
 Purpose


Second: Three hills of Squash
 Squash gossip
 Squash indifference
 Squash criticism

Then: Three rows of Lettuce
 Let us be willing
 Let us be true
 Let us love one another

Add: Four rows of Turnips
 Turn-up determination
 Turn-up with enthusiasm
 Turn-up with new Ideas

Last of all:
 Turn-up with a smile! 😊

Submitted by Claudia Durham
 from Kimball Knight High School paper, 1967



Nancy's Chopped Asian Salad

Dressing:

- 1/4 cup Sugar
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp. Pepper
- 1 cup Canola Oil
- 6 tbsp. Rice Vinegar

**GOOD &
CRUNCHY!**



- Mix all Dressing ingredients together in a bowl.

Ramen Noodles:

2 packages Top Ramen (uncooked)

- Crumble Ramen Noodles only into the Dressing.
- Let sit refrigerated overnight (or about 8 hours).

Salad:

2 10 oz. packages Shredded Cabbage

4 or 5 Green Onions, Sliced

1/2 cup (or more) Toasted Slivered Almonds

1/4 cup Toasted Sesame Seeds (or Flax Seeds)

- Mix all Salad ingredients with Ramen Noodles and Dressing and serve.
- Serves 8 - 12 people.



Let's Grow!



How to Install a Drip Watering System at Home

Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 **Time:** 6 - 7 pm

Speaker: Dub Hirst - Master Gardener, Permaculturalist & Retired Landscape Architect

Topic: Dub will demonstrate the equipment you're likely to need (hose, emitters, timer, etc.) and put your mind at rest about how easy it is to create your own system for your particular landscape.

Location: Harvest Garden @ Henderson County Regional Fair Park
 3356 Texas 31 East, Athens, TX 75751



☞ Bring your own camp chair - seating is limited! ☞



About Henderson County Master Gardeners Association

Our Mission is to educate the community about a broad range of gardening topics.

- Find us online: <https://txmg.org/hendersonmg/>
- Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Hcmastergardener>
- Interested in becoming a Master Gardener? <https://txmg.org/hendersonmg/about-us/>
- [Click here](#) to be added to our email distribution list.

