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Upcoming Meetings:

August 11
Sept 8
Oct 13

Message From The President

Summer is in full bloom and all its blazing glory. Working in the garden is dangerous in this heat. We have had heat advisories for a couple of weeks now, and more to come. Fortunately, Master Gardeners know this is the perfect time to plan their fall and winter gardens. That is certainly a safer and more enjoyable activity.

If you have kept a garden journal, look back to review what you planted last year. Did it provide enough produce and variety for you and your family? Or did you feel like you needed a roadside stand to get rid of "too much"? Maybe you want to try something new such as purple cauliflower, English cucumbers, or watermelon radishes.

Now is the time to adjust your variety and quantities. For fall, determinate tomatoes (80 days) will have time to mature before the first frost (Nov. 26). For winter, broccoli bolts if planted too early. I haven't grown a decent head of broccoli in 3 years, and I planted on or after Nov. 1. My neighbor's honey bees were grateful. Leaf lettuces, green beans and brassicas grow very well into and through most of our winter.

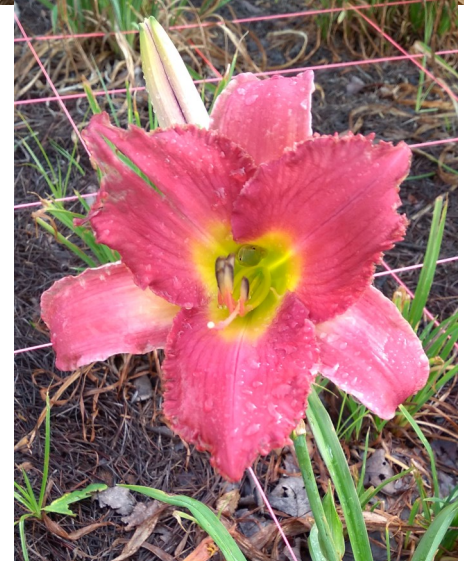
It is unfortunate that so many fruits and vegetables have such limited growing seasons. The good news is that canning is one way to "extend" the time you can enjoy your produce. The Jefferson County Horticulture Committee held a seminar in mid-July, demonstrating how to make jams and jellies. Also there are several prolific "canners" among our Master Gar-

deners. If you missed out, the Ball Blue Book Guide to Preserving is their favorite reference book for methods and recipes.

So stay indoors, avoid complications due to excessively hot weather and plan out your next vegetable garden.

See you soon,

Marianne Kirkpatrick



Agent's Two Cents

By David Oates

Jefferson County Horticulture Extension Agent

*"...Be sure to
keep PEOPLE,
PLANTS, AND
PETS
adequately
hydrated during
these extremely
hot days ..."*

Still going strong despite the heat. That should be battle cry for anyone who works outside in the yard during the last couple of months, especially gardeners! We have gone from a wet and cool spring season to the blazing summer months. All this turnaround in only a few short months. Did I forget to mention the lack of rain fall as well? Mother Nature is pushing the limits of plant AND PEOPLE tolerances with the recent onslaught of 100+ degree days and the lack of rain received. Some have received a few showers, while others have received no rain fall at all. Looking back at my earlier news article that posted in February and March, we were bombarded with high temperatures in the 80-degree range and freezing weather all in the same week. We had a low of 29 degrees followed with a high of 81 degrees all in the span of 14 days. That's just the weather here in SE Texas. The old saying of "if you don't like the weather right now, just wait, it will change quickly." may apply in this situation. Those 80-degree high temperatures are now a distant looking memory at this point. Currently, our weather temps are staying right around the 100-degree mark daily with little to no rain chances in the near future.

Despite the heat, Master Gardener activities are still occurring at a steady pace. We have several activities on the books for the fall schedule. Even some activities that are inside with the "air-conditioned comfort" as well. The Jefferson County AgriLife staff in cooperation with the Jefferson County Master Gardeners have traditionally scheduled the annual Master Gardener Shortcourse educational program for prospective new Master Gardeners in the early January and February months of every year. Over the last year, due to Covid -19 issues, the pro-

gram was postponed until late August and September to accommodate participants and allow for as much in-person programming as possible. Moving a major program to a completely different time of the year can be challenging with all the logistics of speakers and programs to be delivered. We were pleased with the results of having the program later in the year and will again repeat the program with an anticipated start time in the last part of August of this year. Be on the lookout for more details coming soon. The agenda has been completed, and we are gearing up for an exciting year with the new participants who will take part in the upcoming Master Gardeners' program. If the educational short course activities are not your area of interest, be sure to check out all the other activities and workshops being hosted. These include rainwater collection workshops, Master Gardener library days, bee keeping workshops, farmers' market education days, demonstration garden activities, workdays at MG supported gardens such as Seeds for Needs and NSS gardens, Tyrrell Park gardens, monthly meetings, and a host of other activities.

We will be having multiple volunteer opportunities with in-person and digital formats, when possible, to accommodate every volunteer. Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities when they arise and take the opportunity to get involved with any gardening activity of your choosing in Southeast Texas. Stay cool during these hot days as well. Be sure to keep PEOPLE, PLANTS, AND PETS adequately hydrated during these extremely hot days as well. Happy gardening.



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Jefferson County Rainwater Harvesting Workshop

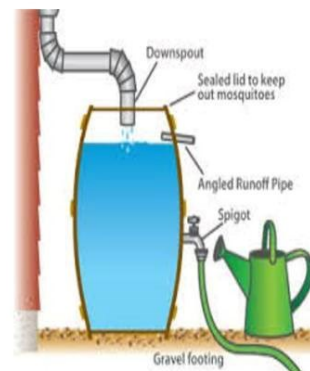
Saturday, August 13, 2022

Register at:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Office
1225 Pearl Street, Suite 200
by August 6th (space limited)
Fee \$50 (Cash or Check Only)

****Participants will construct a rain barrel to take home****

Program: 9 am-Noon

Location: R C Miller Memorial Library
1605 Dowlen Road
Beaumont, TX 77706



For more information please call

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension—Jefferson County
(409) 835-8461

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. *The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.*

Overton Plant Trials



Master Gardener Activities



Field Trip to Mize Gardens

Kiwi Trials at Mize Gardens

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



Jefferson County Master Gardener Shortcourse

Learn about soils, fertilizers, flowers, herbs, fruit and pecans, vegetables, plant diseases, insects, weeds, pesticide safety and other horticulture-related subjects.

WHEN

- Week of Aug 22 thru Aug 26
9am until 5pm
- Every Thursday Sept 1 thru
Sept 22
1pm until 5 pm
- \$175, includes 500 page
manual
- For more information call,
835-8461 or 727-2191, Ext
8461
- Pre-Registration Required

Information can also be found on our website <http://jefferson.agrilife.org>

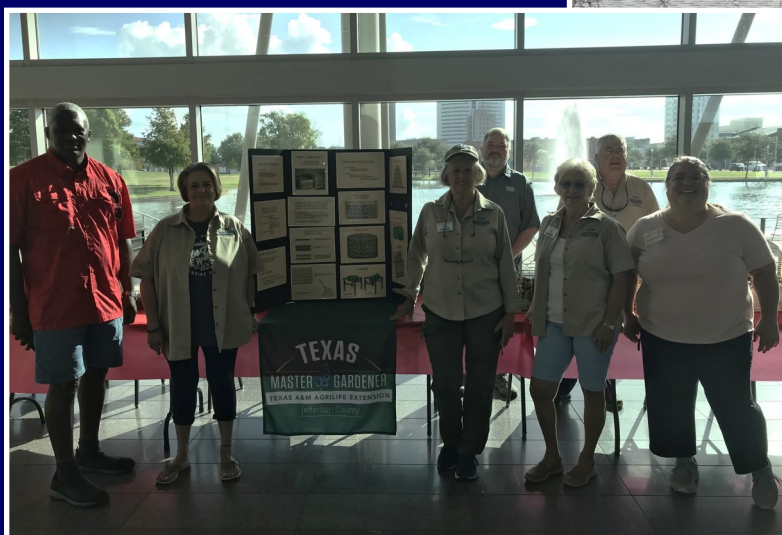
The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Cary Erickson, Jefferson County Human Resources Director at (409) 839-2391 five working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Master Gardeners at Work



Summer Reading Camp

Fruit & Vegetable Show



STEAM Camp



The Latest Dirt

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

1225 Pearl Street, Suite 200

Beaumont, TX 77701

Phone: 409-835-8461

Fax: 409-839-2310

Hotline: 409-835-8742



We're On The Web:

<http://txmg.org/jcmg/>

<http://jefferson.agrilife.org>



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Facebook

MISSION STATEMENT

To encourage and support the horticultural community of Southeast Texas through education and example.

2022 Officers

President—Marianne Kirkpatrick

Vice President—Michael Allen

Secretary—Belinda Bullard

Treasurer—Debby Parker

At Large— Kevin Pierce, Eleanor Lazenby,
John Hughes

Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Melissa Starr

Announcements

Gardening on the Gulf Coast

Aug. 3 Fall Gardening Preparations David Oates, Jefferson
County Horticulture Agent

Register here:

www.eventbrite.com/e/gardening-in-the-gulf-coast-2022-tickets-244717104447

Weekly help ALWAYS needed at our community gardens

Wesley-Seeds for Needs Garden. 3810 N major Dr., BMT every
Tuesday/Thursday starting early usually around 8am. **Get
with Toni Lucenti for additional times and days.

Grow to Share NSS Garden-4950 concord Rd, Beaumont, Tx

Volunteer anytime but especially on Tuesday and Thursdays;
please get with Belinda Bullard for other times help may be
needed.

Beaumont Farmers Market

JCMG Educational Booth

6525 College Street

(under the pavilion)

Starting February 19th

Every 3rd Saturday

8 a.m. - 11a.m.

TO PARTICIPATE CALL OR EMAIL THE OFFICE

(409) 835-8461 | Jennifer.coleman@ag.tamu.edu

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.