



The Grapevine

The newsletter of the Lubbock County Master Gardeners Association
June 2018

June Calendar

Tuesday, 6-5

Master Gardener General Meeting
6:30 Covenant Presbyterian, 48th & Salem

Drew Harvey, President of the Llano Estacado Audubon Society, will speak on "Backyard Birds."

This program counts as 1 CEU.

Saturday, 6-9

Second Saturday at the Arboretum

10:00 am

Presenter: Alicia Thomas

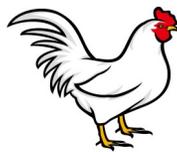
Topic: Urban Pollinators

This program counts as 1 CEU.



Saturday, 6-2

Free Master Gardener Public Program



10:00-11:00

Lubbock Memorial Arboretum

Topic: Backyard Chickens

Presenter: Sally Harrison, Certified Master Gardener and Certified Backyard Chicken Keeper.

This program counts as 1 CEU.

Saturday, 6-23

Wine and Clay Festival

10:00-5:00

Llano Estacado Winery
3426 FM 1585



Master Gardeners will have a booth at this event. Please let Grady or Eileen Cowart know if you would like to volunteer.



Greenhouse Management Specialist Training

Article and photos by Dennis K. Howard.



Two Lubbock Master Gardeners attended the recent Greenhouse Management Specialist training in Kerrville in May, Dennis Howard and Kimberly Copeland attended the class. The intensive three-day course covered not only hobby greenhouses, but also provided a look at the latest innovations in commercial greenhouse management and design, as well as tips and tricks for propagation and Integrated Pest Management.

The class was hosted by the Hill Country Master Gardeners Association. They were wonderful, providing a friendly and inviting event. Not only are they excellent gardeners, they are fabulous cooks! We were treated to homemade treats every day, two marvelous catered meals and their generous hospitality.

If you have questions or need assistance, remember your Texas Master Gardener Specialists are a great source of information and answers.



My Not So Wild Wildflower Garden

article and photo by Cecilia George



When we moved into our central Lubbock home twenty-one years ago, we were delighted that the previous owners had planted a pecan tree. It was a young tree then and not very tall, and I was a less experienced gardener. I should have removed it immediately! The tree was in the wrong spot—right under the telephone wires—and as it grew it became an expensive nuisance, requiring professional pruning every year to keep it from tearing the wires down in the wind. Three years ago, despite another professional pruning, the tree did exactly that—taking down a power line in the middle of the night during a severe wind storm. It was time to take the tree out.

I had always wanted a wildflower garden, so I purchased a Southwest wildflower mix from American Meadows and scattered it where the tree had stood. The first year, we had lots of cosmos and alyssum, which were included to give some color while the perennial seeds sprouted. The second year we had fewer annuals and the perennials started to come into their own, but the effect was spotty. I began to put other plants in the space—red valerian, Blackfoot daisy, salvia greggii, a native white gaura, a hybrid gallardia and a tiny white Desert Willow that came in a six inch pot from High Country Gardens. During walks around the neighborhood in the Fall, I “borrowed” some hyacinth seeds and some Mexican hat seeds and just scattered them all around. There is a nice stand of hyacinths now and one Mexican hat. I hope it will reseed. A surprise last Spring was a volunteer clump of Sand Love grass, which must have sprouted from a seed blown in from the front yard xeriscape. I think it has a lacy effect and I let it stay.

Perhaps I should call my wildflower garden my “patchwork” garden or my “let’s try this and see if it works” garden. I have enjoyed planting things in that little corner without thought of design, color coordination or spacing, and just enjoying the effect of the “natives” and the “visitors” as they grow.

From Our May Gardens



Sherlyn Foster grew this iris—"Call Me Re-ba"—from a rhizome she purchased at the Iris Society sale last summer.



Sherlynn Foster repotted these plants and top dressed them with compost from Arla Loter's compost bin.

The Grapevine is published monthly except January. Send articles and photos to Editor Cecilia George, cfgeorge64@gmail.com Articles should be in Word with photos attached.



Sally Harrison had peppers, aloe, and agave for sale at the May Downtown Farmers' Market.