

Over the Garden Gate



www.txmg.org/wichita

Volume XIV, No 6, June 2022

Happy June Master Gardeners!

I hope you are enjoying this week of cooler temperatures and you are enjoying tending to gardening around your home and with WMGA projects.

May 26: 4:45 pm - Zoom meeting with Jayla Fry on the VMS system

June 7: General Meeting of Wichita Master Gardeners.

Kristen Hoskins, owner of Three Way Flower Farm will present a program on things she has learned during the past 2 years with her business growing flowers in her hoop house and in the fields of her farm. She is a pharmacist, wife, and mother of two daughters. We remember Kristen fondly as a participant in the intern class of 2019.

FM - June 11 - Native Plants and Bees/Butterflies (Children): *any kind of native plants, potted or cuttings; seeds*

July 9 - Bulbs/Tubers and Irrigation;

August 13- Fall Gardening and Irrigation

September 10 - Herbs and Season Extenders

(Reminders will be sent as we near each date so you can plan.)

Please mark your calendars for these dates and we look forward to all who can come out to interact with the public providing educational materials supporting gardening in the community and beyond.

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Local Events

June 7, 5:30 pm: The Wichita County Master Gardener Association will meet at Rolling Meadows. Our speaker will be Kristen Hoskins, owner of Three Way Flower Farm.

June 11, Farmer's Market: Native plants and pollinators. Kids activity. Always need seeds and plants to give away—please label them!

June 16, 5:00 pm: The Burk Garden Club will meet at First Bank, in their community room.



Enter your volunteer (15) & Training (6) hours in the MG
volunteer management system <https://vms.texasmg.org/>

Association Contacts: Elsie Berry, President, 817-988-9846; Rob Cherry, Vice-president, 940-500-2675; Jeff Blacklock, Secretary, 940-867-0310; Mary Alfert, Treasurer, 940-782-9745.

State Directors: Dennis Dohrer and Anne Dohrer; alternates: Mary Barry and Marie Hoover.

WCMG Webpage: Michelle Howard, administrator **Newsletter & Facebook:** Gail Elmore, editor/admin

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.

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A large THANK YOU to State Master Coordinator Jayla Fry for driving up to conduct the May 16th meeting, and to David Graf for coordinating. Also thank you to Lorrie Coop, district extension manager for attending and helping answer questions. Thank you to David Graf for setting up and coordinating the meeting. There was a lot of exchange and interesting information shared. It was a good refresher of what the Master Gardeners stand for- as an extension of the AgriLife Extension service- and to vent issues that need to be resolved. We also learned about other ways to use the VMS system, including the calendar. I learned a lot, including that if you wait all year to document your hours the state office doesn't get all the credit for them! So put your hours in every month as they are completed. Reminder of the Zoom meeting Thursday, May 26 at 4:45 pm with Jayla to discuss any questions we have with the VMS reporting system.

CONSTANT REMINDERS:

Interest Sheets- still have a few missing

State Conference videos will be on line May 25 for those who registered for the conference. Use the same password that you used to sign in for the live conference May 9-11.

Project Reports—please have monthly reports in to Marie Hoover and David Graf by the 29th of the month **A BIG THANK YOU to Marie for coordinating the projects and helping coordinate with activities David Graf has at the AgriLife office.**

Thank you to Mary Rhoads for setting up the Zoom meeting for the 4:30 board meeting and 5:30 general meeting. Please let us know that you plan to Zoom so we will be looking to let you in for the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806792125?pwd=NWw2ck5Ba05sT05ldUpPdk0yTFB5dz09>

Meeting ID: 858 0679 2125

Passcode: 072782

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,85806792125#,,,,*072782# US (Houston)

+14086380968,,85806792125#,,,,*072782# US (San Jose)



Two views of the same “pruned” trees taken approximately 2 weeks apart. You have to look close because the trees behind them have leafed out. An article on correct reasons for pruning follows on the next page thanks to Becky Trammell. Photos from Gail Elmore.



Pruning Information

Pruning is trimming or removing stems or branches with a specific purpose in mind. The reasons for pruning include:

- to remove dead, dying, or diseased growth to benefit plant health
- to encourage growth/development of a strong framework of a tree
- to encourage the development of fruit, flowers, foliage, or stems
- to train a plant, improve appearance, and/or restrict plant growth.

Knowing when to prune is equally important. The best time to prune is late winter while the plant is dormant or early spring before new growth appears. There are exceptions and know when is the best time for any specific plant.

Clean, correct implements are essential to good pruning.

- Clean - pruning was done to remove diseased parts of a plant; transfer of the disease to the next plant pruned is possible.
- Correct – Use larger shears/clippers for larger limbs.

Make smooth, clean cuts on woody shrubs/trees. If removing a limb, don't leave a stub. Make the cut flush with the connecting limb. This type of cut allows for proper healing by the shrub/tree. With sharp implements, tearing of the bark can be avoided. Tearing of the bark leaves an opening for insects and diseases to enter the plant.

Leave pruning of major limbs to the trained arborists who have appropriate equipment

For more information on correct pruning procedures, look at Aggie Horticulture, Earth-Kind Landscaping.

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/proper-pruning-techniques/#:~:text=In%20general%2C%20the%20best%20time,growth%20develops%20in%20the%20spring>

Pruning Information compiled by Becky Trammell

NEWSROOM: PREVENT THE SPREAD OF OAK WILT THIS SPRING IN TEXAS

March 30, 2022

Prevent the spread of oak wilt in Texas this spring

[Prevenir la propagación del marchitamiento del roble en Texas esta primavera](#)

AUSTIN, Texas – Oak wilt is one of the deadliest tree diseases in the United States, killing millions of trees in 76 counties of Central, North and West Texas, and we can help prevent it from spreading.

Prevention is key to stopping the spread of oak wilt. Any new wound can be an entry point for infection including those produced by pruning, construction activities, livestock, land or “cedar” clearing, lawnmowers, string trimmers and storms.

“With wounds being the best entry point for the disease, landowners should avoid pruning or wounding trees from February through June,” said Demian Gomez, Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Forest Health Coordinator. “And no matter the time of year, to decrease the attractiveness of fresh wounds to insects, always paint oak tree wounds.”

Oak wilt is caused by the fungus *Bretziella fagacearum*. The fungus invades the xylem - the water-conducting vessels of the trees - and the tree responds by plugging the tissues, resulting in a lack of water to the leaves, slowly killing the infected tree.

All oaks are susceptible to oak wilt. Red oaks are the most susceptible and can die in as little as one month after being infected. Live oaks show intermediate susceptibility but can spread the disease easily due to their interconnected root systems. White oaks are the least susceptible, but they are not immune to infection.

Oak wilt can spread two ways – above ground or underground. The disease is spread above ground more rapidly this time of year, in late winter and spring, because of high fungal mat production and high insect populations. During this time, red oaks that died of the disease last summer and fall may produce spore mats under the bark. With a fruity smell, these mats attract small, sap-feeding beetles that can later fly to a fresh wound of any oak tree and infect it, starting a new oak wilt center.

The second way oak wilt can spread is underground by traveling through interconnected root systems from tree to tree. Oak wilt spreads an average of 75 feet per year by the root system. This occurs primarily in live oaks and is responsible for the majority of spread and tree deaths in Central Texas.

Oak wilt is often recognized in live oaks by yellow and brown veins showing in leaves of infected trees, known as venial necrosis. Currently, it may be difficult to diagnose oak wilt due to seasonal transitioning of oak leaves in the spring – when evergreen oak trees shed their old leaves while simultaneously growing new leaves. The signs of oak wilt can be seen on a majority of leaves when a tree is fully infected. Landowners should contact a certified arborist if they are unsure if their tree is infected.

“For red oaks particularly, one of the first symptoms of oak wilt is leaves turning red or brown during the summer,” said Gomez. “While red oaks play a key role in the establishment of new disease centers, live oaks and white oaks move oak wilt through root grafts.”

To stop the spread of oak wilt through the root system, trenches can be placed around a group of trees, at least 100 feet away from the dripline of infected trees and at least four feet deep, or deeper, to sever all root connections.

Another common management method for oak wilt is through fungicide injection. The injections only protect individual trees injected and best candidates for this treatment are healthy, non-symptomatic oaks up to 100 feet away from symptomatic trees.

Other ways to help prevent oak wilt are: plant other tree species to create a variety in the area; avoid moving oak firewood before it is seasoned; and talk with your neighbors about creating a community prevention plan for oak wilt. Infected red oaks that died should be cut down and burned, buried or chipped soon after discovery to prevent fungal mats that may form the following spring.

Not only is saving oak trees important for our ecosystem and health, oak wilt can even reduce property values by 15 to 20 percent.

Some cities and municipalities, including Austin, the City of Lakeway, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and Round Rock, have oak wilt programs in place with municipal foresters dedicated to managing the disease. Texans can also contact their local Texas A&M Forest Service representative with any questions about this devastating disease.

For more information on oak wilt identification and management, visit <https://texasoakwilt.org/> or Texas A&M Forest Service’s website at <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/>.

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I really enjoyed teaching the Kindergarten classes about raising Monarch butterflies from eggs to butterfly. Each class received a Monarch butterfly egg to raise in their classroom. This is a really exciting time for these kids. It's amazing how smart they are at this age. Photos & comments from Georgia Spoonemore.

Top, Left: Showing the group how to tell male from female on the Monarch butterfly.

Right: Showing this group how to tell male from female Monarch butterfly.



Bottom, Left: Preparing to release!

Right: Placing the butterfly onto the salvia blooms.



Sandy's
Sparkles!



Spring Gems!



Beautiful blooms! **Top:** Amaryllis, **Center:** Clematis Jackmanii. Photos & comments from Elsie Berry.

Bottom: My Red Yucca is beginning to bloom. Such a hardy native plant. Survived the freeze and many hot dry summers. Photo & comments from Jill Miller.

Denton MG Garden Tour



Top: Denton MG Garden Tour
Bottom: Rainbows End—miniature rose.



Top: Shade garden. Large flowering plant in background is oak leaf hydrangea.
Bottom: Seen on the field trip. We couldn't get very close to them. There were three giraffes but I couldn't get all three in the picture.
Photos & comments from Mary Rhoads.



Flowers & Critters!



Top, Left: Center plant is a sun tolerant coleus that I have placed in my water garden. Coleus are a plant that can tolerate wet feet as long as the water is no more that 2" or so deep. It has been in my pond for a month now and has withstood the horrible winds and so far the heat and sun. I may have to move it to partial shade once the sun gets farther north. It is in full sun from about 10 until 3.

Center, Left: Frog on a lily pad.

Right: Fiesta Moon, an iris my grandfather hybridized and introduced. **Bottom:** A red dragon fly visited my yard today. I've never seen a red one before. According to Google they're supposed to mean good luck. Photos & comments from Mary Rhoads.





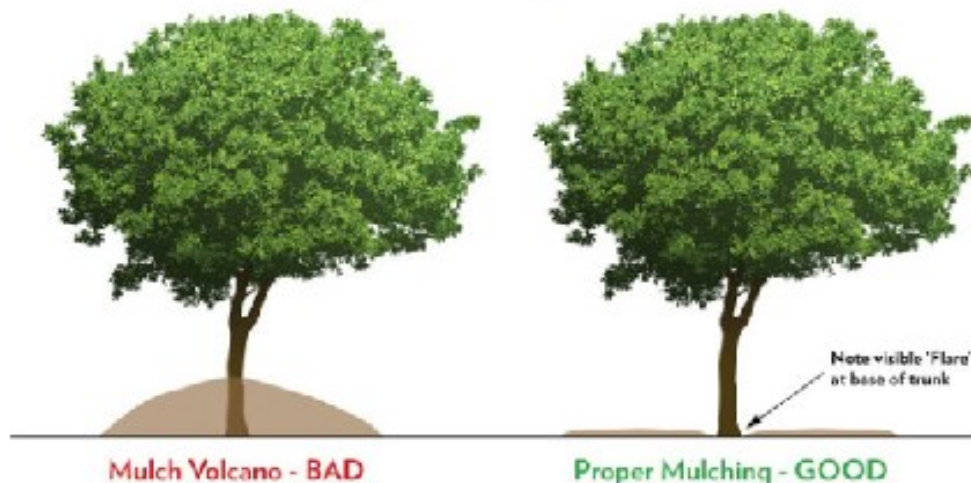
TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

How Do I Care For My Tree?

Mulching Your Tree

Mulch, if applied and maintained properly, can conserve water, reduce weeds & competition from other plants, act as a temperature regulator keeping your soil warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Organic mulch will encourage soil microorganisms which, over time, will help improve the soil.

But mulch can also be detrimental if not properly installed or maintained. Over mulching reduces the amount of available water in the soil and encourages fungi and bacterial growth.



Types of mulch:

Mulch comes in many shapes, sizes, colors and different parent material usually in an organic form but sometimes also inorganic. The most common mulch used around trees is usually bark or wood chips which is an organic form of mulch that will slowly break down overtime and return nutrients back into the soil. Other forms of mulch used across Texas can be composted cotton gin trash, rock, pecan hulls, rice hulls, plastic and sometimes brick. Mulches are typically a by-product from other industries. For example, a popular mulch used in West Texas is rock because rock is a resource readily available; East Texas mulch is usually bark, wood chips or pine needles, a by-product of the wood product industries.

Application:

- Apply no more than a 2-3 inch layer . DO NOT pile it up against the tree trunk in a fashion which has now become known as volcano mulching.
- Distribute mulch evenly around the root zone out to the drip line of your tree.
- Avoid using white or black rock as an inorganic mulch as both can enhance the effect of strong sunshine. Instead, go with more of a natural color like, grey, brown and tan.
- Stay away from impermeable mulches such as plastic. Plastic will prevent natural precipitation or overhead irrigation from reaching the soil. It also reduces gas exchange in the soil which is needed for root respiration and growth.