

Wood County Master Gardeners
Wood County, Texas

MG Wood Works



September/October 2011





2011 MG Officers

Connie Amsden	President
Jim Willis	Vice President
Karen Anderson	Treasurer
Becky Watts	Secretary

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Vision

To be the premier 21st Century outreach and continuing education organization in Texas responding to the needs of the people.

Edited by:

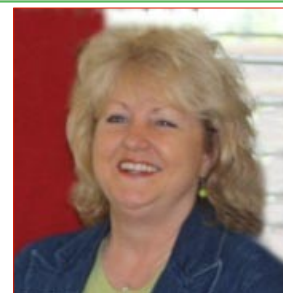
Sylvia Johnson

Mission

To improve the lives of people, business and communities across Texas and Beyond through high quality, relevant Education

President 's Corner

Connie Amsden



"Gardeners, like everyone else, live second by second and minute by minute. What we see at one particular moment is then and there before us. But there is a second way of seeing. Seeing with the eye of memory, not the eye of our anatomy, calls up days and seasons past and years gone by."

- Allen Lacy, *The Gardener's Eye*, 1992



In a perfect world each of our gardens would be a Garden of Eden. However, Mother Nature must be quite the prankster and has delved into her bag of tricks pulling out shenanigans all year long. With the record-breaking temps and unfathomable drought, our gardens look like they have been walked through by a fire-breathing dragon. There are very few plants thriving and flourishing. We can only imagine what she has up her sleeve for the next season. It will be unpredictable at the very least. Perhaps there is hope for the future and we may obtain:

A September to remember.

An October full of splendor.

A November to treasure.

- La Prevenchere, Britany, France, *Entertaining Angels*



Fall is not the end of the gardening year; it is the start of next year's growing season. The mulch you spread now will protect your plants during the winter and nourish the soil as it decays, while cleaned flower beds will give you a huge head start on either planting seeds or setting out small plants.

Do you need to decrease the weed production in your garden? There is a simple solution. Water the soil and place clear plastic over the area. The heat will kill the weed seeds and sterilize the soil as long as the temperature stays above 85°. Now is the perfect time.

"October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came-
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band."
George Cooper, *October's Party*



"Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn."
- Elizabeth Lawrence

WCMG monthly meetings Sept 15 and Oct 20

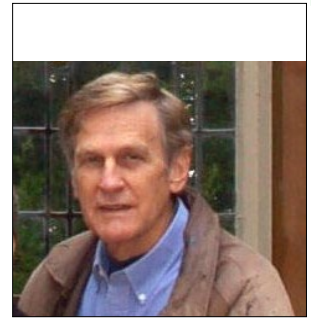
Remember the Fall Festivals: Sept – Alba Fair and Oct – Winnsboro Business Expo, Hawkins Oil Festival, Golden Sweet Potato Festival. Watch for emails with dates and additional information.



May your garden always flourish....And your weeds wither.

September and October Speakers

By: Jim Willis

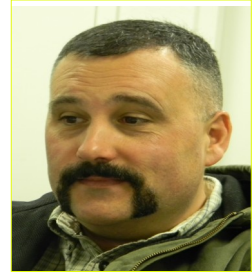


At our **September** meeting Clint will be giving a short presentation on Wood County Agriculture. At an executive meeting a few months ago during a discussion Clint started rattling off some statistics about Wood County Agriculture. It was part of a talk he gives sometimes and it was something we knew everyone would be interested in and October will be a good time to do it.



Our **October** program will be on Water Harvesting and will be presented by Karen Anderson. Karen just recently completed her Water Harvesting Specialist training and she now has all of the latest on this timely subject. She had a couple days of training and she'll condense that down to 40 minutes! No really – the training did cover a lot of areas but Karen will just talk about the why's and how's and will use the material from the class.

If you have gardening books you don't use any more or if you have plants or seeds that you'd like to share or swap, be sure to bring them to the October meeting for the **Book and Plant Exchange!**



Clint Perkins' Gardening Corner

Subterranean Termites

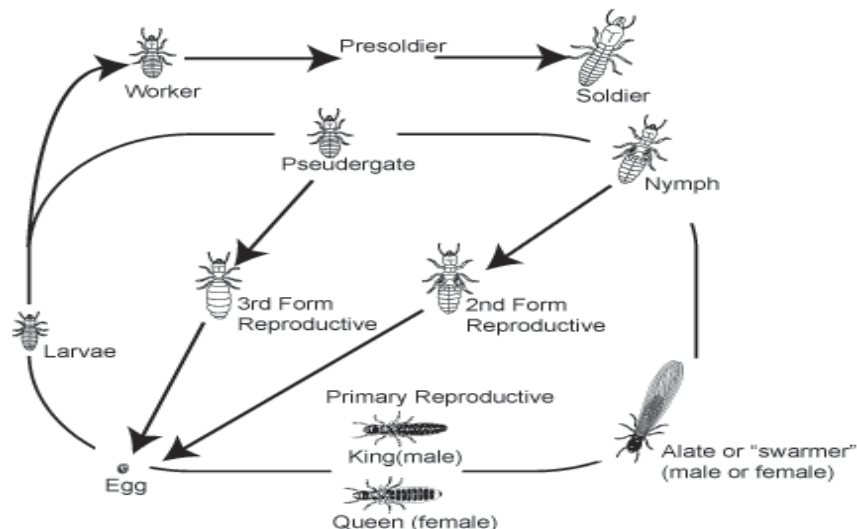
I have been getting several phone calls about termites. With a large number of trees dying because of the severe drought that we are in, I thought it pertinent to write this article. I got this information from the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center for Urban and Structural Entomology. Subterranean termites are the most destructive insect pests of wood in the United States. They cause billions of dollars in damage each year and have a negative impact on a family's most valuable possession - the home.

In nature, subterranean termites are beneficial because they break down cellulose into usable nutrients. The biomass resulting from this process is recycled to the soil as humus. Subterranean termites are, therefore, considered important to our ecosystem.

Problems occur when termites attack the wooden elements of homes, businesses and warehouses built by humans. The presence of termites is often not readily noticed because their activity is hidden behind wallboards, siding or wood trim. Homeowners in all areas of Texas should watch for subterranean termites and take precautions against infestations. To minimize damage from termites, it is helpful to know the description, life cycle and signs of infestation of termites as well as preventive and control measures.

Identification

Subterranean termites are social insects that live in nests or colonies in the soil. They contain three forms, or castes: reproductives, workers (pseudergates) and soldiers. Individuals of each caste have several stages: the egg; the larva that develops into a pseudergate and eventually into a brachypterous nymph or soldier; and the adult. There are three forms of adult reproductive termites including primary, secondary and tertiary.





Reproductive males and females can be winged (primary) or wingless (secondary or tertiary). Females of each can lay eggs and produce offspring. The bodies of winged primary reproductives, also called swarmers or alates, vary by species from coal black to pale yellow-brown. Wings may be pale or smoky gray to brown and have distinct vein patterns used in identification. *Reticulitermes* swarmer termites are about 1/4 to 3/8 inch long.



Secondary and tertiary reproductives live within the colony and are white to cream-colored. These termites form a backup for the primary queen and may replace her if she is injured or dies. These termites mate within the colony and lay viable eggs. If supplementary reproductives and worker termites become isolated from the main colony, they can establish a new sub-colony.

Termite workers (psuedergates) make up the largest number of individuals within a colony and do all the work. They are wingless, white to creamy white and 1/4 to 3/8 inch long. They forage for food, feed the other castes, groom the queen and maintain and build tunnels and shelter tubes. Their mouthparts are very hard and adapted for chewing through wood or other cellulose materials. The worker caste is responsible for the damage that makes termites an economically important problem.



Soldiers resemble workers in color and general appearance, except they have well-developed brownish heads with strong mandibles or jaws. Soldiers defend the colony against invaders, primarily ants and other termites. They cannot forage for food or feed themselves, and they depend on the workers to care for them. Ants and termites often swarm at about the same time of year but control measures for each differ greatly. It is therefore, important to be able to distinguish between swarming termites and ants.

Biology and habits

After 2 to 4 years a subterranean termite colony is mature and produces "swarmers" (winged primary reproductives). Termite swarmers leave the colony in large numbers during the spring and early summer months. Swarming begins in South Texas in January and February; in the Panhandle region of Texas, swarms do not occur until April and May. Termites are weak fliers and must rely on wind currents to carry them to new habitats. Environmental factors such as heat, light, and moisture trigger the emergence of swarmers, with each species having its own set of requirements. The number of swarmers produced is proportional to the age and size of the colony.

Both male and female swarmers fly from the colony and travel short distances and other predators, and many die from dehydration or injury. Termites are weak fliers and must rely on wind currents to carry them to new habitats. Only a small percentage of swarmers survive to develop colonies; most fall prey to birds, toads, insects and other predators, and many die from dehydration or injury.

During the swarming process, males (kings) and females (queens) pair off using pheromones. Successful reproductive pairs land, lose their wings and seek cover under rocks or other moist materials. A pair will make a very small nest before mating. Initially, the new queen termites lays only a few eggs. The male remains with the female and helps care for developing eggs and the larva that hatch.

Eggs are not deposited continuously. In fact, only a few hundred are deposited during the first year. As the young queen grows larger, she lays more eggs. The king and queen care for the young larvae that hatch from the eggs because they cannot care for themselves. The larvae then molt into pseudergate workers, which in turn, can molt into pre and environmental conditions, especially temperature and moisture. Some colonies remain small; others contain up to several thousand individuals. New colonies form when groups of termites become isolated from the main colony and establish sub-colonies. This is called "colony splitting" or "budding." soldiers or brachypterous nymphs (with wing pads). These nymphs will eventually molt to become primary reproductives. The colony stabilizes when the queen reaches her

maximum egg production. If the queen dies, supplemental reproductives take over the queen's duties.

Termites are attracted to certain odors of wood-decaying fungi that make the wood more palatable and easier to penetrate. In some instances, the fungi provide a source of nitrogen in the termite diet.

Moisture is important to subterranean termites as they have very little resistance to dehydration. To survive, termites must maintain contact with the soil (their primary source of moisture) or other above-ground moisture sources, such as defective plumbing, leaky roofs, leaks from air conditioning condensers or poorly maintained gutters.

Subterranean termites also must protect themselves from temperature extremes and attack by ants and other insects. Termites that forage for food above ground protect themselves with shelter tubes or "mud tubes". Worker termites build shelter tubes from particles of soil or wood and bits of debris held together by salivary and fecal secretions. Mud tubes may be thinly constructed or can be often used to bridge across masonry or other objects, allowing termites access to a food source (wood) above ground. Inspecting of structures for termite damage may identify these tubes be large with thick walls to accommodate many termites moving vertically between the soil and their food source.

Subterranean termites also transport moist soil into the structures they infest. The presence of shelter tubes and mud within galleries is used to identify termite damaged wood. Shelter tubes which indicate an ongoing infestation.

Damage

Dead trees and brush provide a natural food source for foraging subterranean termites. When natural vegetation is cleared and houses are built, termites often switch to feeding on wooden structures. Termites enter buildings through wood that is in direct contact with the soil and by building shelter tubes over or through cracks in foundations. Any cellulose material in direct contact with the soil, such as trees, vines or plumbing fixtures, can serve as an avenue of infestation.

Signs of infestation

Active termite infestations can be difficult to detect. To find out if a home is infested, the structure should be checked for evidence of swarmers (including wings or dead termites in windows), mud tubes or damaged wood inside or around a structure

Swarmers: Generally, the first sign of infestation homeowners notice is swarming reproductives on windowsills or near indoor lights. Swarming termites inside the house usually indicate an active infestation in the structure. Termite wings may be found on window sills or stuck to cobwebs indoors. Though swarmers outdoors are a natural phenomenon, they indicate that termites easier, prune vegetation away from the house walls. The soil line should be several inches below the top of slabs or foundation walls. An inspector should look for mud tubes carefully along cracks, in corners, where wood is present in contact with the soil or where nearby structures are under attack .

Mud tubes: Mud shelter tubes on crawl space piers, utility penetrations or on foundation walls and slabs are a sign of termite infestation. Termite shelter tubes can blend in well with the soil or concrete, making them difficult to see. Carefully inspect the home for termites where the top of the foundation is close to the ground. A screwdriver is useful to break open suspected termite tubes and detect live termites.



Wood damage often is not found easily, a positive indication is thuds or dull sounds when struck by a screwdriver or hammer. Probe suspected areas of a current or past termite infestation wherever wood comes in contact with the soil as there is a high risk for termite entry. Carefully examining wood with a sharp instrument such as a screwdriver or an ice pick will often disclose termite galleries or damage.



Characteristics of damaged wood

Subterranean termite damage is usually confined to the soft, spring-growth of wood. Termite tunnels and galleries tend to follow the wood grain and are lined with mud or may have a pale, spotted appearance resulting from soft fecal material plastered on tunnel surfaces. Moisture sources may cause wood decay and can encourage subterranean termite infestation. Deterioration caused by wood-destroying fungi can be confused with termite damage.

Distribution

Several species of subterranean termites are found in the United States; they live in every state except Alaska. Two major types of subterranean termites are commonly found in Texas. They are the native subterranean termite and Formosan subterranean termite, and both are serious threats to wooden structures. Native subterranean termite species in the Genus *Reticulitermes* are found throughout the United States and are considered the most economically important.

The second and increasingly important termite is the introduced Formosan subterranean termite, *Coptotermes formosanus*. The Formosan termite is easily transported from one infested area to another in landscape timbers, railroad cross-timbers, mulch and wooden pallets. Isolated infestations of Formosan termites have been reported in many areas of the state.

Happy Gardening

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Wood County TX AgriLife Extension Service

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Tips and Tricks

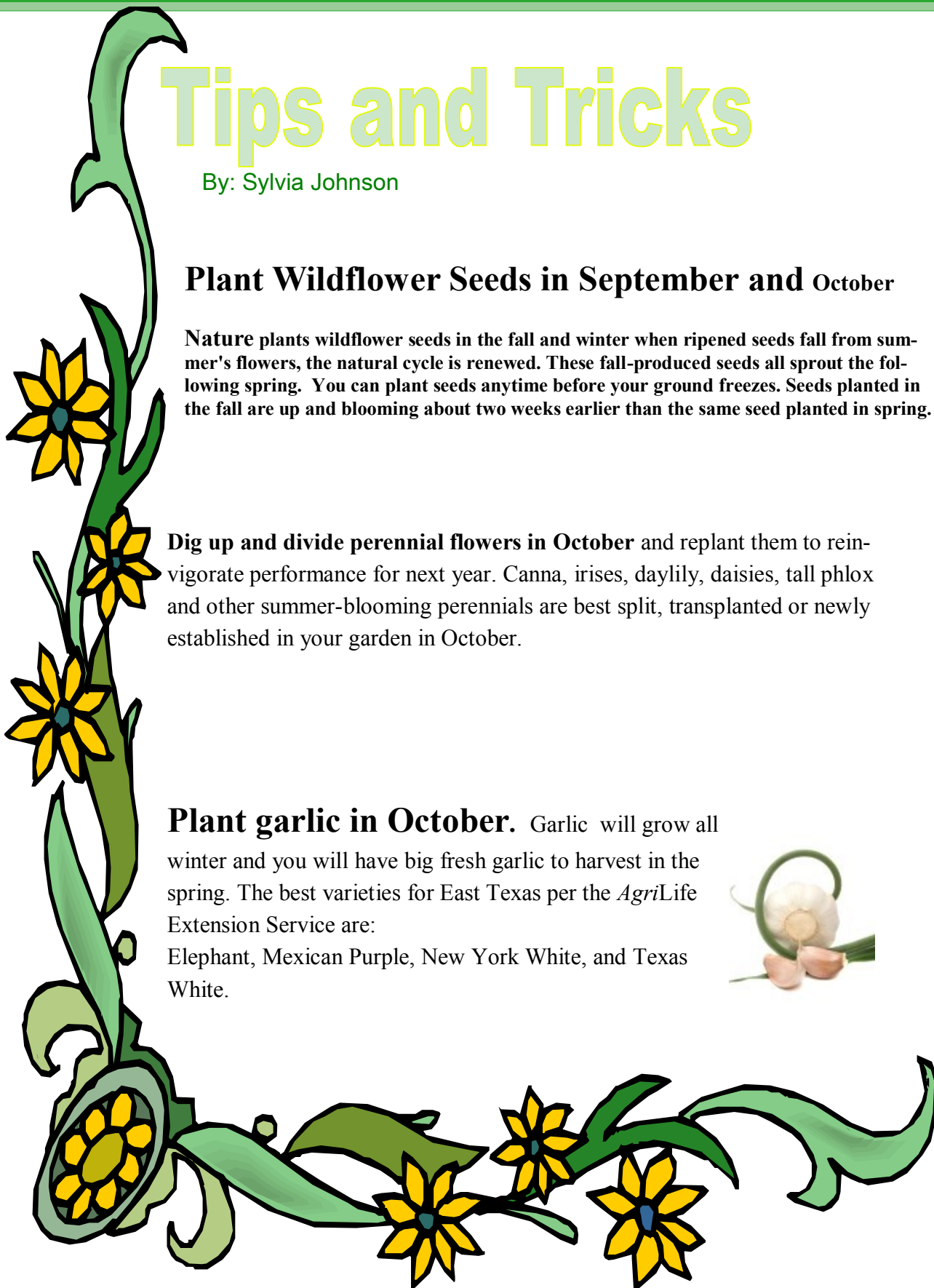
By: Sylvia Johnson

Plant Wildflower Seeds in September and October

Nature plants wildflower seeds in the fall and winter when ripened seeds fall from summer's flowers, the natural cycle is renewed. These fall-produced seeds all sprout the following spring. You can plant seeds anytime before your ground freezes. Seeds planted in the fall are up and blooming about two weeks earlier than the same seed planted in spring.

Dig up and divide perennial flowers in October and replant them to reinvigorate performance for next year. Canna, irises, daylily, daisies, tall phlox and other summer-blooming perennials are best split, transplanted or newly established in your garden in October.

Plant garlic in October. Garlic will grow all winter and you will have big fresh garlic to harvest in the spring. The best varieties for East Texas per the *AgriLife* Extension Service are: Elephant, Mexican Purple, New York White, and Texas White.



Humorous Mishaps

By Lynn AronSpeer

Catch Me If You Can

or

“Get the gloves!”

Many thanks to Ellen & Michael Atkins for this adventure.

I pulled the heavy blue plastic container out from under my potting bench hoping to find a bag of earthworm castings among the other soil amendments. I looked for a while and not finding what I wanted, I stood for moment thinking about what I wanted to do about it. As I stood there my eyes focused on an odd looking dark lump partially hidden behind some pieces of metal. I save everything for my birdhouse projects and old rusted metal makes a great roof. It was dark back in that corner under the bench so I just stared at it wondering what it was...didn't look like metal, was too round to be the wood under the wall, was charcoal black and I didn't think I saved anything that color. Hum, could that be a snake? Nah, surely not. But, Peggy Rogers did just send out that e-mail showing eleven dead snakes. Could it be?

About then my brave husband wandered through the shed.

“Come look at this”
He stared for a bit and the bench was not great.

“Shall I get a he didn't need one and dug his Those bottomless pockets are a have everything we need in thought were lost. He flipped light.



please,” I asked. “What is it?” commented that the light under

flashlight?” I offered. He said headlight out of his pocket. wonder to behold--they usually them, even things that we the switch on and held out the

“Ah, that's a snake,” he said with a touch of dread in his voice. “What do you want to do with it? It's a rat snake; probably the reason there hasn't been any mice out here. Do you want to kill it, leave it here, what?”

My brain said, you've got to be kidding, but my mouth said, “Well, if we leave it and I come out here at dusk or later and it's out on the black rubber floor mat and I step on it...(I often go through my thinking process aloud)...not good. It will eat our eggs and scare the chickens. But, I really don't want to kill it. What if you catch it?”

“Me? Why is this a ‘guy-thing’?” he replied. I smiled brightly at him and sighed. “What do we have that can grab things?” he inquired. The only thing I could think of was my kitchen grab-it thing that will pick up items from the floor and off the top cabinet shelf.

“Get it,” he instructed.

With grabber in hand, my husband told me to try to get the snake moving out from under the bench. I banged the metal pieces making plenty of noise, but the snake simply retreated behind the stack. As we stood looking at the metal pieces, neither of us wanted to mention the obvious--we had to move the stack of metal and whatever else was stored there. Just then my husband appeared from the shop with the wall snake in his hand. Now this snake is not to be confused with the rat snake we were after. This snake works down the wall between the studs to connect to wire that needs to be pulled between the drywall boards. He pulled out a long length of the wire snake and began to thread it between the wall and the metal pieces.

Of course we expected the rat snake to come slithering out the other side and glide right into the cardboard box we had placed in just the right position. After a few minutes of poking and jabbing with the wire snake, we realized we were getting no where. Taking a deep breath, we began to move the pieces of metal. My husband cleared a pathway so we could dash toward the house in case the snake decided to attack. After all the metal was repositioned, we couldn't see the snake. It had to be there; we were both watching for it. Then from under a piece of metal, it stuck out its head to take a peek. My husband was on it with the grabber. He grabbed, the snake writhed away. He grabbed anew; again the snake twisted and squirmed away.

"This grabber is not strong enough! Watch it while I find something else," he ordered. I suggested he could put on two pairs of gloves and just grab it with his hand. Have you ever heard that old saying that a picture is worth a thousand words? Well, I can tell you that the look I got was worth two thousand words. This time he appeared from the shop with a strong stick and his gloves.

"You pull out the boxes under the bench and I'll direct it into the box," he said. "When it goes into the box, you turn it up and put this lid on it." Me? You're the one with the leather gloves, I thought. There were still three boxes under the bench, so one by one I pulled each one out only to see the snake slither behind and under another one. Finally, with one box remaining we decided to do some more thinking. We stood in silence for a few minutes looking intently at the remaining box. We knew it was under there. Guessing which way it would race after being uncovered was the challenge.

"Ready?" asked my husband. "Ready!" I replied. I pulled the last box out expecting to see the snake racing toward me. Nothing. No snake. Nothing.

"Now how can that be?" I asked. "I know it was there." Then out of nowhere came the snake. My husband poked it and directed it into the box. As soon as it was in, I turned the box up and slapped a top on it. Then my husband placed a piece of metal on the lid and I put a piece of 2 x 4 on top of that. That snake was not going to get away now!

We transported the beneficial reptile a few miles from our home and released it into the grass where I'm hoping mice live. On our way back home my husband said that he used to play with snakes when he was a kid, but now, he didn't like them one bit. I pointed out that there was a big difference between an eight inch garter snake and a rat snake that could wrap itself up his arm and slap his cheek with its tail!

Wow! It seems this article has taught us a number of valuable things:

- Snakes often meditate for long periods.
- Snakes tolerate clutter well.
- 'Grabbers' are not strong enough to grab most snakes.
- Wearing gloves is more psychologically satisfying than useful in catching a snake.
- It is suspected that the snake is now living in Bonnie Connor's neighborhood.
(Please note that is *not* Michael's hand holding said snake below.)



Plant of the Month: MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS

By: Karen Anderson

Family : Poaceae/Gramineae

Genus: *Stipa*

Species: *tenuissima*

Hardiness Zone: USA Zone 7-11

Other Common Names: Silky Thread Grass, Mexican needle grass, Pony Tails

One of the new grasses that is showing up in East Texas is Mexican Feather Grass. I planted some a few years ago after seeing it in big pots at an Antique Rose Emporium. They were so wispy in the wind and soft to the touch. The first batch I killed with over-watering and too much shade (my biggest errors). Decided to try again last year after observing how well they were doing at the Mineola Nature Preserve. This time I gave them more sun and less water and they survived. They even made it thru our snowy and cold winter and this spring I had multiple plants along my patio and walkways. If you want a soft, feathery feel of a plant caressing your legs when you meander thru your garden try Mexican Feather Grass.

SUN: Mexican Feather Grass worships the sun. It is a very brilliant green and really stands out in an open area.

SOIL: This grass does not like wet feet. Plant it in a well drained soil, in the open, in dry woods, on rocky slopes for ground cover or for edging in beds and along walkways. It tolerates a pH range of 5.8-8.0. No fertilizers are necessary.

MAINTENANCE: This grass does not require much maintenance, is pest free and handles drought very well. Because old foliage persists into the new season, shear plants back in late winter, before new growth begins to give it a tidier look. Use pruning shears to remove all old, brown grass blades down to 6-12" above the ground.

DESCRIPTION: In early spring the plant's hair like leaves are silky, wiry and have a very bright green hue but turn more buff colored when winter comes. It may go dormant in drought conditions during the summer but begins growing again when temperatures cool and rains (what is that) return in the fall. This 1-2 foot tall perennial bunch grass grows like a cascading fountain.

USES: In your garden Mexican feather grass is best used in mass plantings in open and airy spaces to receive the full effect of it waving to you in the wind. It plays well off coarser textured neighboring plants.

NATIVE LOCATION: This plant is native to West Texas, New Mexico and North Central Mexico. It has proven to be hardy as far north as USA Zone 5. It can be started from seed (sown inside in late winter) or new plants can be propagated by springtime division of the clumps. The clumps also reseed in the garden and in some areas can be invasive. This can be controlled by planting in pots or pulling up the seedlings.



MULCH: Grass plantings should be mulched to help conserve water and prevent weed growth. As the mulch decomposes it will furnish an adequate supply of nutrients needed. So sit back and relax by watching your Mexican Feather Grass wave at you when a breeze flows by.



Keeping Trees Alive in Summer Heat



In trying to keep newly planted trees alive, the Watts have developed a very hi-tech method of irrigation. Jerry Watts demonstrates in the above photograph. Beware, this state-of-the-art method of water transport is patent-pending (just kidding). Many thanks to Clyde and Fran for the donated water barrel.

Fall Festivals

Chairperson: Willie Kay Paredes



As WCMG part of our mandate is to educate the public. One way of doing this is by presenting information and literature at festivals and expos. In order to make the experience great for the public we need volunteer Master Gardeners to help run the booths. Volunteers are needed at all of these events. This is an exciting way to earn community service hours. Manning the booth is fun. You will meet the public and share your gardening knowledge! The following festivals are scheduled for this fall:

<u>Locations</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Date</u>
Alba Country Fair	Sandy Marshall	Sept. 24th
Winnsboro Business Expo	Gail Newman	Oct. 1st
Hawkins Oil Festival	??	Oct. 8th
Golden Sweet Potato Festival	??	Oct. 22nd



By: Joan Morgan

The past 60 days have been a challenge for all Master Gardeners due to the dry hot weather. The Wildscape at Mineola Nature Preserve is looking very good considering the lack of rain and the high temperatures. The butterflies and bees are enjoying the flowers that are bravely emerging in all areas of the beds. We actually enjoyed 1/2 inch of rain last week and the plants perked up considerably. We maintain a watering schedule during the week to encourage the plants to hang in there until the Fall rains begin.



We are in the planning stage for several projects for the fall including educational programs explaining and demonstrating the Rainwater Retrieval System now present at the Preserve. Karen Anderson will be the speaker for the September Master Gardener Meeting, when she will share with us her training in installation and use of the system. She is very excited about the training she received and is eager to share with as many people as possible in demonstrations at the Preserve and at various fall events in Wood County. We will install an irrigation system using the Rainwater barrel as our source of water for some of the lower beds in anticipation of getting some rain this fall. We are very fortunate to receive the constant support of the Friends of the Preserve to further our planned projects.

Our hope is to involve the Boy Scouts in building bird houses and making signage to explain the types of wildlife that can be seen at the Preserve.

The Ag Tour is scheduled for September 27th and their 2nd stop will be for lunch at the Pavilion at the Preserve to enjoy some great barbeque and view the gardens. Please mark the date on your calendars and join in the fun and good food.

We have many visitors daily at the Preserve and receive so many compliments about the Wildscape from hikers and others visiting the Preserve and Wildscape area. We encourage all of you to come out and enjoy the sites at any time of the day.

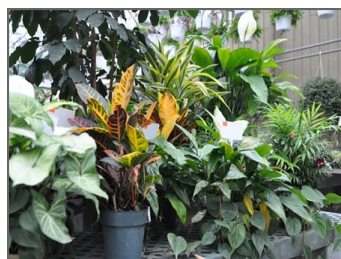


SERENITY CORNER

• EILEEN BARTLETT



I'm having difficulty finding any serenity in my garden as you all must know from the drought and heat that is upon us! Unfortunately, I've spent so much time planting, watering and cultivating an outside garden that my houseplants are now nonexistent. I need a corner of a room or window sill that will do my heart good and bring hope to a good Spring next year.



There are many houseplants (it is amazing!) ...and guidance that I found on:
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/houseplant/houseplant.html#index>

Index of Requirements and Uses Houseplants from TX A&M

- Light Requirements of Selected House Plants
- Temperature Requirements of Selected House Plants
- Cool Temperature (50o-60o F day, 45o-55o F at night)
- Medium Temperature (60o-65o F day, 55o-60o F at night)
- High Temperature (70o-80o F day, 65o-70o F at night)
- Plants for Specific Indoor Gardening Uses
- Plants That Will Grow in Water
- Plants That Will Withstand Most Adverse House Conditions and Abuse
- Plants That Do Well Under Average Home Conditions
- Plants Well Suited For Large Tubbed Decorative Specimens
- Low Creeping Plants for Ground Covers in Interior Planting Boxes
- Plants That Withstand Dry, Warm Locations
- Vines and Trailing Plants for Totem Poles and Trained Plants
- Plants Suitable for Hanging Baskets
- Plants suitable for Tropical Terrariums
- Plants suitable for Desert Dish Gardens

Also visit Dave's Garden to see a page called "Color Your Home" :
<http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/1435/>

How Hot is it in Texas ?



LUBBOCK, TX (KCBD) -

One Lubbock man has found a way to keep his sense of humor in this dreadful heat wave. His creation is called Drought Man.

Albert Angel and his neighbor, Sheri Lewis, have a friendly rivalry when it comes to yard decor. It was actually Lewis who tipped off KCBD News Channel 11 with a picture of Drought Man in Angel's yard on the 4900 block of 16th Street.

Drought Man is a skeleton clad in dry torn up clothes. Angel moves it each day a little closer to a decorative water fountain.

Lewis says, "It started out in the middle of the yard, and every day he would crawl a little farther. A different arm would be extended. His leg would be farther out until he made it to the fountain."

Gardens of Malaga, Spain

By: Sylvia Johnson



Alcazar Palace. Mainly ruins except for the gardens which have been lovingly recreated.



One reason to not take personal pictures!

Last May I was packed for my trip to Spain when I remembered I had to take pictures of the MG Graduation Class Luncheon. So I unpacked my camera and went to the event. It was a great event, however, I did not take any pictures as my camera broke! Oh no! What to do, I sail for Spain tomorrow? Well, people took vacations before cameras so I guess I could also. "What?", you say. Ok, so I quickly bought a point and shoot FILM one-time use camera. I only had 24 shots for the trip and the cruise part alone was 14 days. I had the film developed when I reached Malaga. Only one of photo of Malaga developed. I decided that I was not supposed to take pictures on this trip. So from then on I didn't!

I saw so many beautiful spring gardens as the towns in Spain enjoy wonderful semi-tropical weather. The Moorish Gardens in the Alcazar Palace took my breath away. The entire winding pathway up the very steep hill was landscaped with palms, tropical flowers and fountains. This is a commercial picture of the Palace shown. Inside the palace the courtyards were cool and gave you a feeling of serenity even though there was school field trip of 10 year olds going into the Palace with us!

Every main street in town was landscaped and the air was full of the magical scent of Spanish Spring-time. I regret the absence of photos but all I need do is "Google It" and I can relive the experience. Pictures, after all, are just memory joggers. I still have my visit to Malaga just a blink away.

"Once you have traveled, the voyage never ends, but is played out over and over again in the quietest chambers. The mind can never break off from the journey."

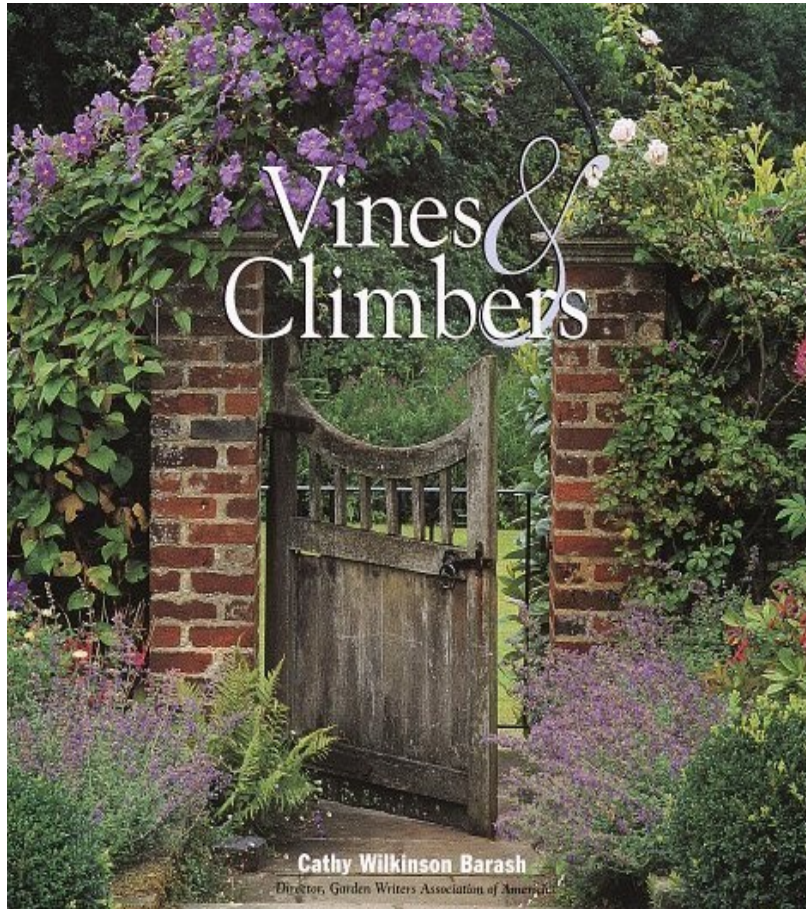
- Pat Conroy

WCMG Library

By: Jim Willis

Another Book in our WCMG Library

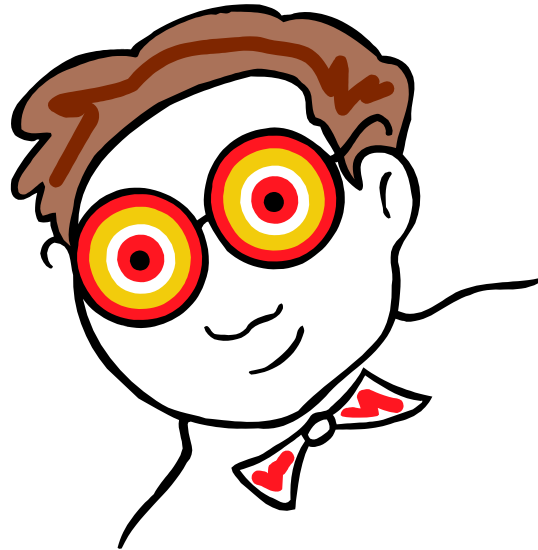
This is a good book for learning or just enjoying the photographs. The library is in Clint's office. See him to borrow this book!



Explore the concepts of making the best out of the vertical space in any garden with Cathy Wilkinson Barash, award winning writer, photographer, and president of the Garden Writers Association of America. Included are appendixes of sources for plants and a USDA hardiness zone map. Full-color throughout. By Cathy Wilkinson Barash - Crescent Books (1997) - Hardback - 128 pages - ISBN 0517142740

International Reading Day - Sept. 8

**Watch This Space*



It's Coming...March 10, 2012



**Save
This
Date!**

**Wood County Master Gardener Projects
2011**

Project	Chair	Email
Quitman Arboretum & Botanical Garden	Pam Riley	pam_riley2003@yahoo.com
Junior Master Gardeners	Linda Avant	linavant@peoplescom.net
Quitman Special Ed Greenhouse	Fran McKinney Clyde McKinney	mckfran@gmail.com mckclyde@gmail.com
Quitman Library	Becky Watts	jbwatts@escapees.com
Mineola Nature Preserve Wildscape	Joan Morgan	cdmorgan@peoplescom.net
Mineola Nature Preserve Sensory Garden	Peggy Rogers	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Hawkins Helping Hands	Lucy Germany	lgermany@etex.net
Winnsboro Morgan Mercy Mission	Jerrie Sutphin Sandra Patrick	granfarm@peoplescom.net sppat57@suddenlink.net
Winnsboro Depot	Jerrie Sutphin	granfarm@peoplescom.net
Winnsboro Library	Jerrie Sutphin Sandra Patrick	granfarm@peoplescom.net sppat57@suddenlink.net
Wood Co. Airport Landscape	Connie Amsden	amsdentr@yahoo.com
WCMG Tip Book with Recipes	Linda Timmons	lindtmms@aol.com
WCMG Training Class	Gail Newman	travlinnewman@aol.com
Spring Conference	Ellen Atkins	ellen.atkins@hotmail.com
WCMG Library	Anita Baker	ldandanita@hughes.net
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Membership Roster	Connie Amsden	amsdentr@yahoo.com
Facebook	Peggy Rogers	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Sunshine	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Email Communicator	Peggy Rogers	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Festival Coordinator	Willie Kay Paredes	jwkpared@peoplescom.net
Volunteer Hours Coordinator (Hrs/CEUs)	Ellen Atkins	ellen.atkins@hotmail.com

***Reminder: Farmers Market every Saturday in Mineola, Winnsboro, and Quitman.
Every Sat. and Wed. in Alba.**

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 <i>International Reading Day</i>	9	10
11 <i>National Day of Service</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>Monthly Meeting Water Harvesting Speaker: Clint</i>	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Alba Country Fair</i>
25	26	27 <i>Wood County Ag Tour</i>	28	29	30	

**Reminder: Farmers Market every Saturday in Mineola, Winnsboro, and Quitman.
Every Sat. and Wed. in Alba.*

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> <i>Winnsboro Business Expo</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Arboretum Fall Plant Sale Hawkins Oil Festival</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> <i>Rains County Hee Haw</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Annual Plant and Book Ex- change Monthly Meeting</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Golden Sweet Potato Festival</i>
<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>					