



As the Garden Grows

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President's Message

During the first six months of 2021, GMG was challenged by the limitations of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Despite that, the Spring Plant Sale was our best in terms of member participation, consumer interest and revenue generation.

The turbulent months since March 2020 curtailed some GMG activities. Thankfully, we have transitioned towards normal operations. Member lunches resumed in May. The Master Gardener training class will commence in September.

"Being a Master Gardener is a fun, exciting vocation that starts with a firm foundation in horticulture." I appreciate the evolvement and knowledge sharing of our members.

Thanks to the many that made us an award-winning organization.

Nick Wentworth

GMG President

July 2021

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GMG Board

President.... Nick Wentworth

Vice-President...Cheryl Hillman

Secretary...Carolyn Parratt

Treasurer...David Burrough

Past President.... Arline Schacherl

County Extension Agent... Dwight Sexton

Home Gardening Do's (AgriLife extension site)

Use recommended varieties for your area of the state.

1. Sample soil and have it tested every 2 to 3 years.
2. Apply preplant fertilizer to the garden in the recommended amount.
3. Examine your garden often to keep ahead of potential problems.
4. Keep the garden free of insects, diseases and weeds.
5. Use mulches to conserve moisture, control weeds and reduce ground rots.
6. Water as needed, wetting soil to a depth of 6 inches.
7. Thin when plants are small.
8. Avoid excessive walking and working in the garden when the foliage and soil are wet.
9. Wash your garden tools and sprayer well after each use.
10. Keep records on garden activities.



New G.M.G. Class to Begin September 14th

"Gardening can influence and benefit your mental health" for this article look at: agrilifetoday.tamu.edu

Fall Class details and schedule in your June Newsletter

G.M.G. June Social Meeting



The June Social was held at P.A.C.E. as advertised (June 3rd). GMG members and their guests enjoyed brisket, turkey and various salads featuring garden vegetables, a dessert table and drinks. Arline Schacherl led us in a blessing before we enjoyed some social time with each other over lunch. After lunch, President Nick Wentworth asked members to introduce their guest(s). We met spouses, Nick's son, Fran's daughter-in-law, friends, future GMGs and young L.J., Arline Schacherl's grandson who enchanted us with a cute story about his Highland cow picture.

Finally, Nick and Arline picked numbers for various door prizes, Members and Guests took home: antique pictures in frames, homemade pickled vegetables, GMG homegrowns produce and plants.

"Master Gardeners enjoy sharing their plant knowledge with others." Gonzalesmastergardeners.org

Send in your plant article or recipe to mguisin@hotmail.com



www.bing.com/image

Monthly Tips for the Garden: Preparing for Fall

Tips for Fall Tomatoes & Peppers (Submitted by Tommie Clayton)

Fall challenges: high temps, hot soil, dry windy conditions, insect and disease pressures. The goal is to get plants established and growing with as little stress as possible. Advantages: plants will flower, set fruit and ripen as temperatures begin to moderate. Tomatoes have a tough time setting fruit when nighttime temps reach 75+, daytime temps exceed 90, and humidity reaches 70+, same for most pepper varieties. Look for fast maturing “heat-set”, small to medium sized tomato varieties adapted to our area which are disease resistant (VFN). Varieties such as Heatwave, Solar Fire, Surefire or Solar Set and fast maturing cherry types – 80 days or less. Calvin Finch’s fall recommends are: BHN968, Ruby Crush, Celebrity, Red Snapper, HM1823, Valley Cat, Red Deuce and HM8849. Flavor is a matter of personal preference, old-fashion tangy or sweet and mild; you may have to do a little research to select the variety suited to your taste, however any will taste better than the grocery store orbs.

Purchase tomato and pepper transplants at your favorite nursery, the earlier the better. Selection may be limited by wholesale grower’s offerings. Look for healthy, stocky transplants in larger containers. If you only find 6-packs immediately pot them up into larger quart or gallon containers to grow a good root system and larger plant before setting out in your garden in early to mid-July, August 1st at the latest.

Soil amendments are the key to success. Work mushroom (or a quality) compost into the soil a couple of weeks before transplanting. Soil at root ball depth must be moist (not soggy) at transplant time, wait until late afternoon to plant, water in with starter solution (weak liquid fertilizer), spread 4-6 inches of mulch around to cool the soil and retain moisture, cage the tomato plants. To lessen stress and keep disease carrying insects out wrap tomato cages with floating row cover bottom to top (cloths pin fasteners). Cardboard or shade cloth on the PM sun side (tomatoes & peppers) will shade plants until they adapt to garden conditions. For the first 10-14 days check soil moisture and water twice daily if needed to ensure roots don’t dry out then adjust watering and fertilization schedule.

The Texas Tomato Lover’s Handbook by William D. “Bill” Adams is my “go-to” book resource for tomato cultural and varietal information. You can find his interviews on YouTube and via internet searches. Yes, he’s an Aggie!

More information can be found at: <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2013/09/EHT-056.pdf>
<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2013/09/EHT-064.pdf>



*Be sure to Bookmark July Tips at: Travis-tx.tamu.edu,
 and your [AgriLife/Texas Master Gardener Vegetable Garden Planting Guide](#) in
[Your M.G. Class Handbook](#)*

Volunteering : Members Together



June 10th Workday (Submitted by Carolyn Parratt)

Arline, Cheryl and I were the three volunteers to show-up and clean-up, and out, then organize the storage building today. It was warm, let's say hot and dirty, but there was a successful outcome to the project. Arline found lots of items for next year's SPS Silent Auction. There's a lot more room inside now, but shelves on the westside wall would be a huge benefit. The items are now properly labeled and together according to project. One of the perks of working today was harvesting some of Sandy L's heirloom tomatoes and some baby green beans.

Plant of the Month

Gorizia rosemary, aka Barbecue Skewers, newest Texas Superstar by

Texas A&M AgriLife horticulturists, has been named the newest Texas Superstar selection for its edible and ornamental characteristics and ability to perform well across the state.

More information can be found on the [Agrilife Today](http://www.agrilife.org) website by searching the site by plant name.

WEBSITE INFORMATION: If you schedule an event, inform Jo Swiger, website administrator, and Carolyn Parratt, GMG Secretary so that they can add it to our calendars. Keep up to date on events by checking the website regularly. www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org.

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings/classes are at
623 N. Fair Street (Plantarium: A Center for Exploration-aka PACE)

				July 1 GMG **Monthly Meeting	2	3
4	5 Independence Day Observed	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 GMG Board Meeting	30	31 Volunteer Hours Due

** MG Class #11 planning meeting following noon meeting.



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