



TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER

As the Garden Grows

A Publication of the Gonzales Texas Master Gardeners

February 2022 Issue 12

President's Message

The January freezing temperature is a reminder that our area is susceptible to periods of adverse plant growing weather during the first quarter of the new year.

Extended temperature declines below thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit will kill annuals and succulents. Even perennials find the conditions to be challenging. Fortunately, most will survive.

The Texas Master Gardener Handbook has detailed instructions on pruning trees, shrubs, and hedges. The best time to prune is in the winter before spring growth begins. Proper pruning will let the plants natural healing process stimulate new growth.

Flowering plants should be pruned after flowering, unless pruning can be done before buds are set on last year's growth. Shrubs can be pruned anytime, as can plants with dead limbs.

Weather permitting, now is the ideal time to accomplish gardening chores in preparation for spring.

Nick Wentworth GMG President

GMG Board

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Perennials in the Greenhouse with Shirley Frazier

It's only a few months until our annual Spring Plant Sale and there are a lot of perennials in the greenhouse that Master Gardeners have propagated for the sale. If you haven't taken a walk in the greenhouse, do so.

Master Gardeners began in September taking cuttings and starting them in the propagation tent. We also went to other Master Gardeners' homes and took transplants from their gardens. You would be surprised as how many varieties of plants there are in our members' yards.



In the greenhouse you will find beautiful coleus, a variety of ferns, hardy roses, salvias, cannas, verbena, succulents and so much more. Seville Farms had an excess of perennials that were left over, and they generously gave them to us. There are plugs of; scabiosa, African daisy, pink guarra, and coreopsis, all of which will be potted up by our grow teams.



Hopefully this year there will be a lot of available plants to buy from wholesalers, particularly annuals. Last year there were very few. Seville Farms gave us the excess annuals as well that they had left over from their planting.

The historic freeze that we had brought on a big demand for all plants, and we had a bang-up sale despite the cool weather. Two hours into our sale, we were almost out of plants.

Most of our plants were grown by master gardeners, that is the reason the sale was a record money maker.



Student Volunteers with Master Gardeners in the Greenhouse January 12th



The Spring Herb Sale with Dee Senglemann



Herbs are in the pots growing for our plant sales. We will offer a limited number of early herbs for sale at the Vegetable Sale in March, including parsley, cilantro, and dill. The rest of our herbs will be available at our big April Plant Sale on the square. These herbs include:

* mints * basil *
salad burnet *
nasturtium *
garlic chives *
chives * lemon
balm, * bee balm *
lemon grass * sage
* Mexican tarragon
* English thyme *
Greek oregano *
sweet marjoram *
fennel * stevia *

chamomile * catnip * rosemary * Provence
lavender*

Prepare your soil! All herbs come with a guide label on the container so no guessing what it is and how to care for it when you get home! See you at the sales.

Your MG Herb Team

Pair your Spring Garden Plants with Herbs:

<https://www.almanac.com/companion-planting-guide-vegetables>

Succulents in the Greenhouse with Sandy Machacek

Succulents have increased in popularity in recent years. They have thickened, fleshy leaves and stems requiring minimal water. They are also fairly easy to propagate many with only a leaf. Various colors and growth forms can be found among succulents, and many of them bloom. They can be upright and slim such as the mothers-in-law tongue (sanseveria), rosettes as in the hens and chicks, or creeping such as the watch chain.

There are many varieties growing in the greenhouse including aloe, crassula muscosa, hawarthia, huernia penzigii (slightly prickly), night blooming cereus, as well as those mentioned above. We do plan to make dish gardens before our plant sale as well. If you have others you would like to share for propagation, please let us know.



In the Garden Landscape with Central Texas Gardener and Aggie Horticulture Tips.

<p>Fertilize: Use a 19-5-9 release fertilizer on winter annuals.</p>	<p>Water and irrigate everything really well before a freeze, and as needed for perennials, bushes and trees even during the winter.</p>
<p>Planting time for those herbs, or plan to buy them at the GMG sales. (See list on page 5) Divide and plant summer and fall perennial flowers. Also, summer bulbs.</p>	<p>Soil: Follow Texas A&M AgriLife recommendations from your soil test sample results. Ask a Master Gardener or your County Ag Extension Agent.</p>
<p>Lawns: If your lawn has a history of brown patch problems treat with a labeled fungicide late in the month and then repeat in three to four weeks if needed. Use Herbicides for weeds.</p>	<p>Diseases and/or pests to look for on trees should be monitored for potential problems later in the year.</p>
<p>Maintenance: Prune and cut rose bushes according to its category. Also, other woody bushes and trees. For more information read the article at: https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/proper-pruning-techniques/ or look in your Texas Master Gardener Manual</p>	<p>In the Vegetable Garden: Fertilize your winter vegetables. Look at your planting guide and do your own research based on planting varieties that you like, and times, or ask a Gonzales Master Gardener.</p>



February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Containers and Greenhouses 	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3 GMG Monthly Meeting 	4	5 Last day to send January Volunteer and CEU hours to C. Hillman.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	14	15 Vegetable Gardening 	16	17 Children's Garden First Grade Seed Planting @ Eggleston	18 Alternate Date for CG seed planting on the 17th.	19
	21 <i>President's Day</i>	22	23	24 GMG Board Meeting	25	26
	28 First day to send February Volunteer and CEU hours C. Hillman					

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR BIRTHDAY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS!





"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

WILL ROGERS

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