



# *As the Garden Grows*

*A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners*

*Gonzales, Texas September 2017 Volume 7, Issue 7*

## **Master Gardener Training Class**

GMG Class 8 officially began on September 12, 2017, but if you are still interested in taking the course, you must sign up before the next class on September 26. Currently, we have six students signed up for the class. Applications may be picked up at the Gonzales County Extension Office, 1709 E. Sarah Dewitt Drive, Gonzales County Extension Service website – <http://gonzales.agrilife.org>, or the Gonzales Master Gardener website – <http://gonzalesmastergardeners.org>. You may also contact the County Extension office directly at 830-672-8531, or call Robbie Cole at 281-734-1391.

Another great year is planned under the direction of David DeMent, coordinator, Laura Boatman, co-coordinator, Carolyn Parratt and Nadine Hodges, class assistants.

### **Planned Gonzales Master Gardeners 2017-2018 Class Schedule**

8:30am – 12:30pm, at the Plantatarium: A Center for Exploration (PACE)  
623 Fair Street, Gonzales, TX

- 9-12 **Introduction and Tour** – Dwight Sexton, Extension Agent; David DeMent, Arline Schacherl, Gail Johnson, Fran Saliger, Gonzales Master Gardeners
- 9-26 **Botany** – Liz Palfini, Botanist, Park Superintendent, Palmetto State Park, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Chapter 1 – Plant Growth and Development

- 10-10 **Field Trip to the San Antonio Botanical Garden and Children's Garden** – David Rodriquez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bexar County Agent
- 10-17 **Plant Propagation** – Fran Saliger, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist, Chapter 1 (continued)
- 10-31 **Plants and the Underground Economy** – Gail Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist, Chapter 2- Soils, Water and Plant Nutrients
- 11-14 **Entomology and Integrated Pest Management** – Molly Keck, TAMU AgriLife Ext. Bexar Co. IPM Agent, Chapter 4
- 11-28 **Drip Irrigation** – Jim Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist  
**Greenhouses** – David DeMent, Gonzales Master Gardener  
**Seed Starting** – Jim Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist
- 12-12 **Fruit Production** – Gail Johnson, Dee Sengelmann, Nancy Foster, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialists, Chapter 5-Home Fruit and Nut Production
- 1-9 **How to Plant a Tree and Tree Diseases** – Mark Kroeze, Urban Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service
- 1-23 **Vegetable Gardening** – Dr. Larry Stein, Associate Head, Professor and Extension Horticulturist, Texas A&M University, Chapter 6- Vegetable and Herb Gardening
- 1-30 **Landscape Concepts and Design** – Wendy Lovejoy, Landscape Designer at Lovejoy Gardens, Chapter 7 – Landscape Horticulturist
- 2-6 **Southern Gardens** – Dr. Bill Welch, Texas AgriLife Extension Horticulturist
- 2-20 **Plant Pathology** – Dr. Kevin Ong, Professor & Director of The Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Texas A&M University, Chapter 4- Plant Health Problems
- 3-6 **Turf Grass** – Dennis Hale, TAMU AgriLife Extension Wilson Co. CEA-AG, Retired, Chapter 8 – Lawn Care
- 3-20 **Pollinators** – Dr. Chris Nice, Professor of Biology, Texas State University
- 4-3 **Rainwater Harvesting** – Brian Davis, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Wilson Co. CEA-Ag.
- 4-17 **Field Trip to Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center** – Austin tour and Native Plants in Landscape Design
- 5-1 **Ecosystems Management** – Baron Rector, TAMU AgriLife Extension Range Specialist, Chapter 3 – Earth Kind
- 5-15 **Field Trip and Class Graduation**



# Gardening Activities for September

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)



Plant cool season vegetable transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, and collards this month. Fertilize with a soluble plant food at planting. In addition, plant seeds of beets, turnips, chard, cool season greens, lettuce, and spinach this month and into October. Cool season peas can be planted later in the month. Keep seed beds moist. Mulch beds to help block out the sun's heat, cool the soil, and deter germination of cool-season weeds.

Fall potatoes can be planted in early September giving them time to develop tubers before the first frost.

If you still have some warm season flowering plants left, rejuvenate them by shearing them back by a third, fertilize, and water them well. Foliage plants like coleus, Persian Shield, and copper plants will also appreciate some fertilizer and a good soaking irrigation. If any of your geraniums made it through the summer heat, remove any damaged growth and give them a boost of fertilizer and water.

There is still time to plant some fall marigolds early in the month.

Get your flowerbeds ready for cool season flowering plants (pansies, snapdragons, stock, dianthus, alyssum) by mixing in a couple of inches of compost and mulch. When those plants come to the nurseries (late September into October), just push back the mulch and plant.

Fall is the ideal time to divide Iris, daylilies and bulbs that bloomed in the spring. It is better to plant the rhizomes of Iris right after you dig them up but can survive in a paper sack for year or more if time does not permit immediate planting. Divide spring blooming perennials like violets and Shasta daisy.

Wait until October to plant wildflower seeds, larkspur, poppies and sweet peas.

If you didn't get any rain from Hurricane Harvey (ok, I know most did!), give your shrubs and trees a good soaking by applying one inch of water.

If you didn't shear back your Roses last month, then do so now, fertilize them and water them well to promote that fall flush of new growth. Be on the lookout for black spot and powdery mildew and treat accordingly.

Fruit trees that bloom in the spring set their buds for next year's bloom from late summer through fall. Maintain moderate soil moisture now to prevent the negative effects of drought on bud development. Stop fertilizing fruit trees now to allow them to grow slowly as they prepare for winter and develop hardiness.

Citrus, persimmons and pecan trees carrying a crop for a fall harvest, need moderate soil moisture to help ripen fruit or develop the kernels properly.

As the temperatures cool down, cool season weeds in the lawn will start germinating. This is usually in late September to early October. The best weed control is a dense, healthy lawn. Many weeds can be prevented by putting out a pre-emergent herbicide application about the third week of September. Water in with about 1/3 inch of water.

Apply a fall application of fertilizer with a 3-1-2 ratio in early October for our area.

Look at your landscape to decide if you need to re-do your landscape or plant new shrubs and trees. Fall is the prime time to plant these since it allows maximum months for roots to establish before the summer heat returns next year.

---

## Second Grade Program Starts this Month

Our Second grade program led by Dee Sengelmann and her team of MGs will get our GISD school programs off to a good start on **Thursday, September 21, 2018**. Volunteers are needed to help with the first class session. Contact Nancy Foster if you want to help. The children will be coming to PACE and volunteers will be needed from 7:45-11:30 am.

---

## The 2017 Fall Tree Sale

A note from Donna Bell, chairperson, for the Fall Tree Sale:

**CANCELLED**

“Some may know that we had a Fall Tree Sale scheduled for early November. We had one last year and wanted to do it bigger and better this year. But....Harvey came along and flooded out our supplier of fruit trees. We decided to cancel and come back next fall with a great sale. Please do come and see us at our annual Spring Plant Sale on March 24, 2017.”

---

## Lunch & Learn Seminars

Stay Tuned for the next Lunch and Learn Seminar. Since we had to cancel the 2017 Fall Tree Sale, we will only have one Lunch and Learn seminar on **October 12, 2018**. Gail Johnson will present “Practical Fruit at Home” featuring Strawberries and Pears. We will continue the Fruit Tree Series next spring (citrus trees, blackberries, and blueberries) and in the fall of 2018 Stone fruit (peaches and plums) and pecans. Keep up to date on our website <http://gonzalesmastergardeners.org> for the latest information. These seminars are free to the public. Lunch will be served at noon followed by the presentation.

---

## GMG Noon Lunch Meeting

The general meeting for GMG will be held on **Thursday, October 5**. All MGs, interns and new students are welcome. We will have a short business meeting followed by door prize give away and discussion about horticulture. Bring a door prize and any questions for discussion! ***We need a host or two for preparing lunch for October and November.*** There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at PACE. Please let Fran know if you want to host the meeting.

---

### Save the Date



## Gonzales Master Gardeners 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Plant Sale

**Where:** Texas Heroes Square  
**When:** Saturday, March 24, 2018  
**Time:** 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Grow Teams**

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)

As we begin to think about the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale, it is time to get our “Grow Teams” activated! It’s a team effort to make the Grow Teams work for the benefit of each of us and the public. For our new students in Class #8, our Grow Teams are comprised of MGs who grow plants for the spring plant sale. We encourage everyone to join one or more teams to further your knowledge of how to grow and care for plants. Our grow team leaders are as follows:

Herbs	Dee Sengelmann
Houseplants, Annuals, Tropicals	Shirley Frazier
Perennial/Natives	Fran Saliger
Vegetables	Sandy Llewellyn
Trees	Donna Bell
Succulents/Cacti	Sandy Starkey

Members, please contact a grow team leader if you want to be on a team. Have a team meeting and discuss what you want to grow, how to identify your plants and create information about your plants to distribute to the public. Look back at how your area was displayed last spring and think of ways to improve and make it even better. Think about what the customers wanted and try to provide them with what they asked for.

Pots and soil are available in the Greenhouse for the plant sale. Let Fran know if you need any other supplies. The Miracle Gro soil is primarily for herbs and vegetables. The Sun Gro Professional Mix-Metro Mix 852 is great for everything else. There is also bulk fertilizer available. I’m in need of a volunteer or two to help get the drip irrigation system set up in the greenhouse-please contact Fran if you can help. This needs to be done in the next month or two. As you bring your plants into the Greenhouse, please make sure they are disease free and properly identified (name of plant and date started).

If you plan a Grow Team meeting at PACE, be sure to schedule it with Marcella Perales, administrative secretary for the Extension office, at 830-672-8531. GMG generally have use of the building on Tuesday and Thursday except when there are class sessions being held. Please call Fran Saliger if you have any questions or concerns about the plant sale. We will have a group meeting very soon so stay tuned.



**Perennials/Natives Grow Team**

(submitted by Fran Saliger)

Now is a great time to make cuttings of perennials and native plants. Fall is a good time to prune back some of your plants that have gotten leggy or unshapely over the summer months-besides, it was too hot to be outside anyway. Take your cuttings and place them in a container of water while you are trimming so that they don't dry out. Next take the cuttings and trim down to 4-6 inch cuttings, apply rooting hormone and place in perlite or soil. Keep them moist while they form roots. Then plant in 4 inch pots. The propagation tent is working at the greenhouse. If you forgot how to propagate, I will be teaching a class on October 17 at PACE on Propagation Techniques.

---

## Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

### Wild Thyme, Creeping Thyme, Mother of Thyme

*Thymus serpyllum*

Labiatae/Lamiaceae

Prostrate subshrub with creeping stems and tiny ovate, aromatic leaves. Equally small two-lipped flowers bloom in rounded clusters.

**Plant Type:** perennial

**Plant Form or Habit:** low and trailing

**Plant Use:** In the front of beds, borders, herb gardens, and as a ground cover.

**Propagation:** division

**Light Requirement:** full sun

**Flower Color:** violet, white

**Bloom Period:** late spring to mid-fall

**Height:** Minimum: 1 inch    Maximum: 10 inches

**Width:** Minimum: 6 inches    Maximum: 10 inches

**Foliage Texture:** fine

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 4

**Water Requirements:** average



**Additional Comments:** Prefers poor, non-alkaline, well-drained soil. Used medicinally as a diuretic and expectorant, and to improve digestion. Its strong antiseptic properties promote healing of external injuries. Reportedly effective in treating hangovers and alcoholism. A sedative herb, it also is used in aromatherapy to relieve stress.

---

## Area Events

**Georgetown:** The Native Plant Society of Texas, Williamson County chapter meeting on **September 14** will feature entomologist Mike Quinn, and he plans to "bug us" with information about Pollination Beetles of Texas. Quinn has been involved with the field of entomology for 30 years and has a lot to say about the evolution of flowering plants and which ones cater to beetles. Quinn's background includes a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and an M.S. in Entomology, both at Texas A&M University. The meeting will be held in the Hewlett Room at the Georgetown Library, 402 Eighth Street, Georgetown, beginning at 7 p.m. Arrive early for fellowship and to pick up some seeds from the seed board. For additional information, contact [kshend@verizon.net](mailto:kshend@verizon.net).

**Houston:** Linda B. Gay will present "Roses Love Companions" at the Houston Rose Society meeting, **September 14**, 7:30 p.m. at the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston. The parking lot is Lot C located at Hermann Drive and Crawford Street. Gay was director of Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens from 2000-2011. In 2015, she assisted in the development of the new McGovern Centennial Gardens in Hermann Park, sharing her knowledge and love of plants, tweaking new garden plantings and teaching staff and volunteers best management practices for the garden. Gay can be found at The Arbor Gate on the weekends, teaching classes, meeting garden friends and helping newbies pick the best plants for our area. She writes a monthly garden article for *Houston House and Home* and "talks dirt" with Craig Cohen on Houston Matters Radio. This fall Linda will be an adjunct professor in the Horticulture Department at Houston Community College in Katy. Free Admission. For more information, visit [www.houstonrose.org](http://www.houstonrose.org).

**San Antonio:** The San Antonio Herb Society's **September 14** program features Cristiano Prada, the owner of Austin's Lua Brazil and the maker of a gourmet version of traditional Brazilian breakfast rolls and bite-size snacks. Be the first to taste Pao De Queigo, a South American cheese bread along with three other flavors: basil, jalapeño and vegan. These wholesome, savory snacks are gluten free. They are crunchy on the outside, and warm and gooey in the inside. Learn about using the cassava plant to create gluten-free flour, taste the finished product and consider buying a package to delight visiting guests. Meetings are held at the San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio, starting at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge and the public is invited.

**La Marque:** "A Passion for Plumeria" with Galveston County Master Gardener Loretta Osteen presenting, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., **September 16**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413, e-mail [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); further details see [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html). Galveston County Master Gardener event. Fee/Free.

**New Braunfels:** Learn all about the sunflower family when Craig Hensley leads "Confusing Composites: An Introduction to the Sunflower Family" at the Lindheimer Native Plant Society (NPSOT) meeting **September 19** at the GVTC Auditorium, 36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels. The meeting begins with social time at 6:30 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by the presentation.

**La Marque:** "Bulb Mania" with The Garden Club of Houston award-winning member Dodie Jackson presenting, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., **September 23**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension in

Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413, e-mail [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); further details see [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html). Galveston County Master Gardener event. Fee/Free.

**La Marque:** "Composting, Turning Dirt into Soil & Soil Health Assessment" with Galveston County Master Gardener Jim Gilliam presenting, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., **September 23**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413, e-mail [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); further details see [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html). Galveston County Master Gardener event. Fee/Free.

**College Station, TX: Landscape Design School Series XXV, Course III** Date(s) - 09/25/2017-09/26/2017, 8:45 am-3:30 pm at George Bush Presidential Library and Museum,

**Arlington:** Native Plant Sale hosted by the Native Plant Society of Texas - North Central Chapter, **Saturday, September 30**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at River Legacy Park - Elm Grove Pavilion, 701 NE Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington. All sale plants have been grown organically from local seed by members, so they don't have neonicotinoids. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and offer tips. Native plants are better adapted to our climate, have minimal water needs, don't need pesticides or fertilizers, and benefit birds, butterflies and the ecosystem in general. The event raises funds for outreach, including training, education and demonstration gardens. For a list of species with photos, visit <http://www.txnativeplants.org/plantsale/index.php>.

**La Marque:** "Favorite Fall Vegetables (Cruciferous & other vegetables)" with Galveston County Master Gardener Gene Speller presenting, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., **September 30**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main (Hwy 519), La Marque. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413, e-mail [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); further details see [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html). Galveston County Master Gardener event. Many of the vegetables included in this presentation will be offered for sale as transplants at the Galveston County Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale on October 14. Fee/Free

**Belton: September 30, Fall Plant Sale, Bell County AgriLife Learning Center**, 1605 North Main Street – Belton, 09/30/2017 from 8:00 am-1:00 pm

**Victoria:** Victoria County Master Gardeners will have a Fall Plant Sale on **October 7** at the MG Pavilion & Victoria Educational Gardens, 283 Bachelor Dr., Victoria. The sale will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude when the plants are sold out. This year the theme will be "Fall Is The Time For Planting" and will have fruit and citrus trees, fall color bowls, fairy gardens, succulents, Texas Superstars, fall annuals, perennial shrubs and color. Arrive early for the best selections.

**Tyler:** From Bulbs to Blooms - Fall Conference and Sale will be held **October 14**. Greg Grant, *Texas Gardener* contributing editor, and Smith County Horticulture Agent and Bulb Expert, will be the featured speaker on Hard to Find Bulbs and Bulbs good for the South. Along with bulbs, trees and shrubs will be available. Registration, 8:30 a.m.; Program, 9:00 a.m.; Sale, 11:30 a.m. Harvey Hall, 2000 W Front St., Tyler. Free and open to the public. For additional information, visit <https://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/> or call 903-590-2980.

**Brenham:** The Antique Rose Emporium 30th Annual Fall Festival of Roses  
November 3-5, 2017 <http://www.aregardens.com/> . 10000 FM 50 Brenham, Texas 77833, 979-836-5548

**New Braunfels:** Save the Date- Comal MG 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Gardening Seminar “Secrets in the Garden-Native plants and Their Pollinators”. **Friday, March 9, 2018.**  
<http://txmg.org/comal/events/seminar>

Check out [www.txmg.org](http://www.txmg.org) for events around the state

New Braunfels area: <http://txmg.org/comal/events>

Austin Area: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/>

San Antonio, Texas- <http://www.bexarcounymastergardeners.org>

---

## 2018 Texas Master Gardener Conference



**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TMGA ~ Unveiling of  
The Gardens at Texas A&M University**

**Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present,  
Embracing the Future**

The Texas Master Gardener Association, together with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services is hosting the 2018 Annual Conference April 4-6, 2018 in College Station, Texas.

The website, [2018tmgaconference.com](http://2018tmgaconference.com) is under construction as we book speakers and tours!

Our host hotel is the Hilton College Station Hotel and Conference Center located at 801 University Drive in College Station and they are already taking reservations online (and are half sold out!) via our special conference [link](#). The conference will take place in different venues on the A&M campus. Rest assured we are working on the very best parking and shuttle options for our attendees!

With the dual-celebration of our fortieth anniversary of the Master Gardener program in Texas and the opening of the Earth-Kind® Gardens that we, as Texas Master Gardeners donated significant funds to, this is going to be AN AWESOME CONFERENCE! Don't miss this GRAND event!

Our target date for going live with registration is October 1, 2017; keep up to date on our [Facebook](#) page and with the monthly TMGA newsletter.

---

**DATES TO REMEMBER: (Check elsewhere in newsletter for details)**

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>SEPTEMBER 10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12 MG Class Orientation 8:30 am -12:30 pm</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class Session #1 7:45-11:30 am</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26 MG Class Botany-Liz Palfini 8:30 am-12:30 pm</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28 Board Meeting 9:30am</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30 Volunteer Hours Due</b>
<b>OCTOBER 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 Noon MG meeting</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 MG Class SA Botanical Gardens</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12 Lunch and Learn- noon</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17 MG Class Plant Propagation 8:30-12:30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26 Board Meeting 9:30 am</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31 MG Class Soils-8:30-12:30 Volunteer hours due</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 1</b>	<b>2 Noon MG meeting</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

**Children's Garden:** Corner of Moore and St. Louis St.-next to Eggleston House

---

**Editors:**

Fran Saliger  
[fsaliger@gvec.net](mailto:fsaliger@gvec.net)  
Charlotte Knox  
[lotteknox@aol.com](mailto:lotteknox@aol.com)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office

1709 E. Sarah DeWitt Drive  
Gonzales, TX 78629  
Phone: 830-672-8531  
Fax: 830-672-8532  
E-mail: [gonzales@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:gonzales@ag.tamu.edu)

Web pages:  
<http://gonzalesmastergardeners.org>

<http://gonzales.agrilife.org>



TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

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. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodations in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 830-672-8531 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A & M AgriLife Extension