



As the Garden Grows

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Gonzales, Texas March 2017 Volume 7, Issue 3*

SPRING PLANT SALE MARCH 25, 2017



Gonzales Master Gardener's Spring Plant Sale is shaping up to be another great sale. The date is set for **Saturday, March 25 from 8:30am until 1:00 pm** in downtown Gonzales on Texas Heroes Square. We plan to offer all the plants you could possibly want. Many of us are looking to replace plants that we lost this past winter during the Big Freeze. We have what you need! With Spring on the horizon, plans are to have a variety of bedding/annual plants to please everyone. There will also be lots of perennials and native adapted plants. Our Herb and Vegetable Grow Teams have out done themselves! They are growing many different kinds of herbs, tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables. Citrus trees and other tree varieties will also be available.

The Silent Auction is always an integral part of our sale. Many interesting items have already been donated. If you have something to donate, contact Arline Schacherl at 857-0134. The MG Booth will be ready for your questions and will have applications available for our next MG Training class starting in September. The Children's Booth will be showing children of all ages how to grow a plant to take home.

Hope to see everyone out for the big event!

Gardening Activities for March

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)

Warm season vegetables such as beans, tomatoes, corn, squash, cucumbers, melons and peppers should be planted one to two weeks after the average date of last killing freeze (around March 15 for our area). When planting tomatoes, plant them deep so they will grow more roots and anchor the plant.

Plant cool-season annual plants for color early in the month for the longest season. These would include petunias, larkspurs, stocks, calendulas, sweet alyssum, foxgloves and other early spring color plants. These can be planted in pots and flowerbeds. For a longer bloom period, deadhead blooms often.

Plant warm-season annual plants one to two weeks after average date of last killing freeze. These would include zinnias, marigolds, celosia, impatiens, wax begonias, and coleus. Follow up with pentas, lantanas, moss rose, purslane, copper plants, purple fountain grass, angelonias, fan flower, and firebush as these become available in the nurseries (or purchase at the GMG Spring Plant sale on March 25!)

Plant summer and fall perennials according to the prime blooming season, height, width and color. Plan for a sequence of color so that the landscape always has a pop of color.

If you are establishing a new lawn, now is the time. Start St. Augustine and Bermuda from sod. Wait another month to plant Bermuda from seed or zoysia from sod.

Prune evergreen shrubs before new growth begins. Remove up to 25% by pruning branch by branch. Avoid formal shearing of shrubs.

Reshape spring-flowering shrubs after these plants finish blooming.

Prune back low hanging, dead or damaged branches from trees. Avoid pruning oaks during spring to prevent the likelihood of oak wilt fungus.

Apply a high quality, all nitrogen or high nitrogen fertilizer to lawns around mid-month.

Fertilize pecan trees with an all nitrogen fertilizer. Apply 1 pound per inch of trunk diameter at ground level near the drip line (outer canopy of leaves). Repeat application 30 and 60 days later.

Fertilize spring flowering trees, shrubs, and vines after they finish blooming. Apply some lawn fertilizer to promote vigorous new growth.

Fertilize annuals with high nitrogen or all nitrogen fertilizer at half the recommended rate one week after planting. Repeat at recommended rate three weeks later and throughout the season.

Fertilize perennials with the same type of lawn fertilizer and water deeply after feeding.

Be on the lookout for insects eating on your vegetables and flowers. Treat according to IPM (Integrated Pest Management) practices. Using insecticides can harm the bees and butterflies. For more information on IPM go to aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

MG Class Students Study Plant Pathology

(Submitted by Carolyn Parratt)

Guest speaker, Dr. Kimberly Cochran discussed plant pathology on February 21 with GMG students. She introduced the disease triangle which is composed of 1) a favorable environment, 2) a susceptible host plant, and 3) presence of a pathogen. She stated that by changing or removing just one component of the triangle the disease process could be disrupted.

Dr. Cochran discussed signs and symptoms of plant disease with emphasis on proper management strategies: buying disease resistant plants, proper cultivation, sanitation and use of correct chemical and biocontrol methods. Samples of diseased plant material can be sent to TAMU for identification but knowing the site history, environmental issues around the plant and doing a complete examination of the plant inside and outside will expedite a correct diagnosis of the plant disease. For more information and the required submission form go to <http://plantclinic.tamu.edu/>

Dr. Cochran expounded on the details of pathogens that damage or kill plants including bacteria, viruses, nematodes, and fungi. She described how bacteria attack the vascular system of a plant causing a sticky or snot-like ooze. If you have ever picked up a pepper, onion, potato or carrot and had your fingers collapse into a mush of plant tissue then soft rot is at work. Viruses are spread by vectors (insects) or mechanical means (discing). Plants with a virus may have conditions like bicolor petals (Tulip Breaking virus) or over proliferation in roses (Rose Rosette virus) called witches'-broom. Nematodes are microscopic worms that infest and feed on a plant's nutrients or roots. An infected carrot may have worm-like structures on the outside. Fungi appear in many forms including Basidiomycetes (mushrooms, puffballs, fairy rings, conks), Cotton Root Rot, Oak Wilt, Root or Crown Rot (cacti, succulents). Jelly Ears is a type of non-harmful fungi found on wood.



The class concluded with students viewing pathogens under microscopes including the favorite hand held microscope. A stalk of sorghum with Fusarium stalk rot (red growth on plant) could easily be seen using this scope. After this presentation, the students will look at plants differently in the future



Gonzales Master Gardeners Project Updates

First Grade Children's Garden

(Submitted by Arline Schacherl)

It was another very successful planting day with the First Graders on February 23. The weather was great and the students were very excited as usual as MG volunteers tried to keep up with where those children planted their tiny seeds! They each found their very own garden with their names on the Egg markers. They planted spinach, lettuce, radish and carrot seeds using templates that helped them place the seeds in the right spot. Then they carefully placed colored plant markers at each section where their plants will grow. With all the rain, things should be coming up soon. The children will be visiting the gardens on **Thursday, March 30**. Volunteers will be needed, so give Arline Schacherl a call. Harvest date is **April 20** starting at noon.



Second Grade Class Sessions

The Second Graders will be meeting with Dee Sengelmann's team on **Tuesday, April 11. Meet at 7:45 am for set up.** Second graders from East Avenue will meet at the PACE building to learn about flowers as they complete their study on the Parts of a Plant. Contact Dee if you can volunteer to help with the class.



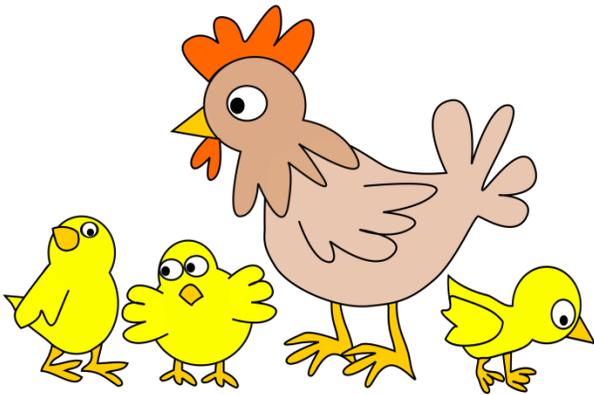
NOON LUNCH MEETING

Our next GMG noon lunch meeting will be held **April 6, 2017.** Carolyn Parratt and Mike Ohlhavsen will be providing lunch. Our Door Prize drawings have been a great hit and a chance to learn about plants. Bring something to share with the group.

All Master Gardeners are encouraged to attend, including the MG students.



Lunch and Learn - Backyard Poultry



We will have another Lunch and Learn seminar on **Wednesday, April 19, 2017**. Carolyn Parratt will be presenting "Backyard Poultry". Carolyn is a Gonzales Master Gardener and lives out in the country. She enjoys raising chickens on her ranch in addition to her other projects. Her presentation on backyard poultry is sure to be informative. Lunch will be provided and is free to the public.

Twelve GMG Attend Comal MG Seminar

Everyone had a great time at the recent Comal MG seminar on Texas Heirlooms and Superstars.



Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Monarda

Lemon Mint/Purple Horse Mint

Monarda citriodora (Lamiaceae)

A hardy annual or tender perennial native to the Midwest and southern United States. A typical member of the Mint family with its distinctive square stems. Flowers are arranged in whorls stair-stepping up a single stem. Blooms are deep purple to lavender surrounded by colored bracts. Grows in various soil types and prefers full sunlight. Can tolerate very dry conditions. A stately plant excellent for cutting, grows well almost anywhere.

Average planting success with this species: 80%

Height: 1-3 feet

Germination: 10-30 days

Optimum soil temperature for germination: 60-70F

Sowing depth: 1/16"

Blooming period: May-August

Average seeds per pound: 819,000

Seeding rate: 3 lbs. per acre

Suggested use: Flower gardens, mixtures, roadsides, meadows, disturbed areas, slopes.

Miscellaneous: The leaves, when crushed release a sweet citrus aroma. A good variety to attract hummingbirds and butterflies to your garden. The dried stems provide an interesting addition to any floral arrangement.



Scarlet beebalm, Oswego tea, Red bergamot

Monarda didyma

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

A dense, rounded, terminal, head-like cluster of bright red, tubular flowers atop a square stem. Scarlet beebalm is a popular perennial with scarlet-red flowers in terminal tufts. The 3 ft. stems are lined with large, oval, dark-green leaves. Individual flowers are narrowly tube-

shaped, tightly clustered together in 2 in. heads. The leaves have a minty aroma.

This species is coarser than true mints (*Mentha*) but is very showy and frequently cultivated in gardens. Hummingbirds are especially attracted to the red flowers. The alternate common

name Oswego Tea refers to the use of the leaves for a tea by the Oswegos of New York. Early colonists also used the plant for this purpose when regular tea was scarce. A white-flowered variant is sometimes grown in gardens.

It is susceptible to powdery mildew, but some cultivars, such as Jacob Cline, are mildew resistant

Duration: Perennial

Habit: Herb

Size Notes: Normally 2 to 4 feet tall, but can get to 6 feet

Flower: Flowers in 2 to 4 inch clusters

Fruit: Brown

Size Class: 1-3 ft., 3-6 ft.

Bloom Color: Red

Bloom Time: May-October

Bloom Notes: Will bloom from midsummer to fall in its natural montane and Northeastern habitat. In the Southeast, blooms from late spring to early summer.

Water Use: Medium

Light Requirement: Sun, Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Moist, Wet

Soil pH: Acidic (pH<6.8)

Cold Tolerant: yes

Soil Description: Rich, moist, acid soils. Juglone tolerant.

Use Ornamental: Valued for its bright flowers and minty aroma

Use Wildlife: Hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees are attracted to the blossoms of Oswego tea.

Use Food: Occasionally used in Earl Grey tea.

Use Medicinal: Its medicinal uses include expelling worms, and for treating gas, fever and stomach ailments. (Lamb/Rhynard) The name Oswego Tea comes from the fact that the leaves were used for a tea by the Oswego Indians of New York. Early settlers also used the plant for this purpose when regular tea was scarce. (Niering) The name Beebalm comes from the folk use of crushed leaves to soothe bee stings.

Conspicuous Flowers: yes

Fragrant Foliage: yes

Attracts: Butterflies, Hummingbirds

Nectar Source: yes

Deer Resistant: Moderate

Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Marion: Don Tuff, Ph.D. Entomology, Texas A&M, presents "To Populate, We Pollinate" Tuesday, **March 14**, 2017, 7:00 p.m., at St John's Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion. Pollinators - creatures that transfer pollen from plant to plant - are essential to plant reproduction, and our own. They are responsible for the survival and continuity of over 80 percent of the world's flowering plants. Meetings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome. There is a plant/seed exchange and greeting at 6:30 PM followed by the program at 7:00 PM.

For more information, directions to St John's Lutheran Church, or membership applications, visit <http://npsot.org/wp/guadalupe/>.

Johnson City: Blanco County Master Gardeners present David Rodriguez, Horticulturist with Texas AgriLife Extension Office in Bexar County. Rodriguez is a popular radio host of The Lawn and Garden Show on WOAI on Saturday mornings. Rodriguez will speak to the group on **March 14**, at 1:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 105 North LBJ Drive, Johnson City.

Round Top: The 22nd Annual Herbal Forum will take place 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, **March 17**, and 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, **March 18**, on the grounds of The Round Top Festival Institute, 248 Jaster Road, Round Top. The Herb Society of America, Pioneer Unit, will host the "Thyme Well Spent" Gift Shop and Plant Sale. For additional information, visit www.herbsocietypioneer.org or email henryf@festivalhill.org.

Seguin: Saturday, **March 18**. It's time to garden! Spring Plant Sale with Vegetables and Landscape plants grown by Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. Look for us on the parking lot of the Silver Center, 510 E Court, Seguin, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. or until sold out. If it's pouring rain, the sale will be rescheduled for March 25.

Conroe: The Montgomery County Master Gardeners are having their annual Spring Sale, featuring avocados, perennials, vegetables, herbs and more, on Saturday, **March 18**, at 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Program is at 8 a.m.; sale is from 9 a.m. until noon. For more information, call 936-539-7824 or [visit www.mcmga.com](http://www.mcmga.com).

La Marque: "Tomato Stress Management": with GC Master Gardener Ira Gervais presenting, 9:00-11:00 a.m., **March 18**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galvcountymgs@gmail.com, further details see <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>. Free.

La Marque: "Culture & Care of Palms": with GC Master Gardener OJ Miller presenting, 1:00-3:00 p.m., **March 18**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galvcountymgs@gmail.com, further details see <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>. Free.

Pasadena: Harris County Master Gardener Perennial Sale, plant overview 8-9 a.m. Sale hours 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, **March 18**, Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff Rd., Pasadena. For additional information, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

Houston: Open Garden Day, 8:30-11:00 a.m., Monday, **March 20**, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston. Master Gardeners available to answer your questions. Free. For additional information, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

Huntsville: Herb Festival at the Wynne Home, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Saturday, **March 25**, on the grounds of the beautifully restored Wynne Home Arts Center, 1428 Eleventh Street, Huntsville. Sponsored by the Texas Thyme Unit of the Herb Society of America. Herb plants galore; Pollinator plants; Camellias; Vegetables, Kitchen, garden and herbal vendors; speakers; music; Children's Crafts; Artists and more! Free admission. The Wynne Home will be open to visitors. For information call, 936-891-5024.

La Marque: "Turning Dirt Into Soil": with GC Master Gardener Jim Gilliam presenting, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m., **March 25**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park,

4102-B Main St., La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galvcountymgs@gmail.com, further details see <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>. Free.

Austin: Trowel and Error, Mayfield Park Gardening Symposium will be held 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, **April 1**, at Mayfield Park 3505 W. 35th Street Austin (next to Laguna Gloria Art Museum). Presentations include: 10 a.m. Jay White, contributing writer for *Texas Gardener*, Masters in horticulture, will present "Pest-free Organically"; 11 a.m. Patty Leander, Texas master gardener vegetable specialist and contributing editor for *Texas Gardener*, will present "Tiny Garden/Small Garden: Microgreens to Straw Bales"; Noon, Bruce Leander, biotechnology, art, photography, golf, "sort of" the Photographer in Residence at Lady Bird Wildflower Center, will present It's a Snap To Take Good Garden Pictures: A Few Simple Tricks to "Develop" Outstanding Digital Pictures. Mayfield has the best deals in town for hard-to-find heirlooms and other perennials perfect for the April garden. A "garden goodie" raffle for the discerning gardener will round out the day. Sponsored by Friends of the Parks of Austin, a non-profit organization, Trowel and Error is the solitary fund-raiser for historic Mayfield Park. Although admission is free, a \$5.00 donation is requested. For more information: 512-453-7074, neenok@aol.com, or mayfieldpark.org.

Hempstead: Peckerwood Garden presents Peckerwood Insider's Tours: Saturday, **April 1**, 10 a.m., 20559 FM 359 Rd. Hempstead. Pre-Registration Required. Tours will highlight a focused subject each month, ranging from Peckerwood's specific plant groups, garden design strategies, seasonal interest and more. Attendees will have the rare opportunity to see sections of the garden never visited during the general tours as we explore "Early Interest Winter Plants." \$15 admission and parking, Free for members. For more info, visit <http://www.peckerwoodgarden.org/explore/visit-peckerwood-garden/> or email info@peckerwoodgarden.org.

Hempstead: Peckerwood Garden presents Evening at Peckerwood Lecture Series: Friday, **April 21**, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., 20559 FM 359 Rd. Hempstead. Topics will include various aspects of horticulture, botany, garden design, plant collecting adventures, conservation and many other related fields of interest. Wine and refreshments provided. \$10 admission and parking, \$5 for members. For more info, visit <http://www.peckerwoodgarden.org/explore/visit-peckerwood-garden/> or email info@peckerwoodgarden.org.

Hempstead: Peckerwood Garden presents Peckerwood Garden Open Day: **Saturday, April 22**, 10 am.-3 p.m., 20559 FM 359 Rd. Hempstead. Visitors enjoy 1-hour guided tours of the garden led by knowledgeable docents. Guided tours are offered approximately every 30 minutes, leaving between 10 am and 2 pm. Purchase Tickets. \$10 admission and parking, Free for members. For more info, visit <http://www.peckerwoodgarden.org/explore/visit-peckerwood-garden/> or email info@peckerwoodgarden.org.

Check out 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.bexarcountymastergardeners.org>

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
MARCH 12 South TX Home Show Landscape Design School	13	14 SPS Meeting 1:00 PM	15	16	17	18
19	20 Work in GH for SPS	21 MG Class Container Gardens Earthkind-Texas Superstars 8:30-12:30 Work in GH for SPS	22	23	24 SPS Setup 9am	25 SPRING PLANT SALE
26	27	28	29	30 Board Mtg. 9:30 am 1st Grade Visit to Children's Garden Noon-2pm	31 Volunteer Hours Due	APRIL 1
2	3	4 MG Class Rain Water Harvesting-Brian Davis	5	6 Noon MG meeting	7	8
9	10	11 2 nd grade class session 7:45 am till ?	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 MG Class-Field Trip Wildflower Center-Austin	19 Noon Lunch & Learn Backyard Poultry	20 1st Grade Harvest Children's Garden Noon-2pm	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Board Meeting 9:30 am	28	29

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

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