

Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT

Grow With Us

*Autumn Sedum Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Sharrie Ely*

## Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Well, friends, we made it to the "ber" months; hopefully, autumn-ish temperatures will soon follow suit.

Have you heard? Silver is the new gold! DCMGA received two second place awards in the TMGA Search for Excellence Program for our work in 2019. Congratulations to the team at FMFB Community Garden for their recognition in the XL Association Project category! DISD School Days at Clear Creek, a collaborative project led by the Texas Master Naturalist—Elm Fork Chapter, was also recognized in the XL Association Youth/JMG category. Additional information about the Awards including a complete list of the 2019 winners is available on the [TMGA website](https://dcmga.com); select the "Awards" tab at the top of the home page. Please see the article on Page 5, which lists our 2019 service milestone recipients and Advanced Training specialists.

Of course, none of the awards would be possible without the behind-the-scenes work of the State & International Award Submissions Team, which creates and submits award nominations with oversight from DCMGA's Immediate Past President. For 2019, that included Barbara Brown, Gay Campbell, Beverly Duncan, Kathi Fast, Bernadette Gilbert, Sarah Hendel, Rhonda Love, Raeline Nobles, Kathy Rainey, Kim Wootton, and Lee Ann Yates, led by Tammie Gurley.

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<https://dcmga.com>

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## Buds From The Board (Cont.)

Speaking of behind-the-scenes work, our 2021 Board of Directors selection process is underway, and the Nominating Committee is assembling a slate of officers for CEA-Hort Janet Laminack's approval. The approved slate will be presented to the membership in October with elections held at the November General Meeting.

As always, the process is open to our entire membership – veterans as well as interns on track to graduate as Members in Good Standing. If you're interested in serving on the 2021 Board, please contact one of our stellar Nom Com team members: Chair Jolayne LaCour (2014), Vice Chair Karen Roberts (2016), Jerry Alexander (2015), Randy Condit (2020), Beckey Cortines (2020), Cheryl Huckabee (2018), Sue Hudiburgh (2008), and Pam Spooner (2018).

Our September 9th (virtual) General Meeting and Program features Texas A&M Extension Viticulture Program Specialist Michael Cook, who will present "Growing Backyard Grapes." Our monthly general meetings are free and open to the public with replays available on our [DCMGA YouTube channel](#). Advance registration is required.

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you are treasures! May you continue to be safe and sound with every provision and protection.

*Kathryn*





## Speakers Bureau

BY KATHY RAINEY

For those who may not know, the Denton County Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau is dedicated to the mission of educating the public on safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that promote the development of healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities. Speakers Bureau shares this knowledge through public presentations and in "Ask a Master Gardener" booths at community events. As you might imagine, requests for speakers during the Covid19 pandemic has slowed down greatly, but it has never stopped. Dee Payne, our Speakers Bureau Project Manager (PM), explains that our devoted speakers quickly reached out to engage our community residents with virtual presentations through Zoom and other media platforms.

Dee became Project Manager of the Speakers Bureau in 2010. While volunteering on the Help Desk, she learned there were requests

coming in for the Speakers Bureau that were not being addressed. After she brought this to the attention of the DCMGA Vice President, they learned that, without any warning, the Speakers Bureau PM had to leave town to care for a very sick, longtime friend. Dee was asked if she was interested in taking on this role temporarily until the Speakers Bureau PM returned. Ten years later, she is still in the PM role. She finds the role to be rewarding, enjoyable, and has made many friends along the way.

Currently there are about 48 volunteers on the Speakers Bureau Committee. The speaking topics most often requested are native plants, container gardening, herbs, raised bed gardening, and landscaping with drought tolerant plants. Out of all of the volunteers in our speakers group, there are many whose homes have been on the DCMGA Garden Tour, not once, but twice. These individuals strive to educate themselves in their favorite areas of gardening. Many of our speakers hold certifications in various fields of horticulture, and they strive to acquire an extensive number of continuing education hours each year to constantly enhance their learning. Many held careers in teaching at the elementary, secondary, and college levels and several speakers have degrees in botany and science. Most have been gardeners throughout their lives. Some have traveled the globe only to discover their love for art can be expressed right at home in their gardens through landscape and yard art. They find nothing more gratifying and fulfilling than sharing their artistic art and beauty in the garden with others. With this knowledge and experience, they have the passion to enlighten and inspire others.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Dee Payne

### Project Manager Dee Payne

promoting Speakers Bureau at a community event.

## Speakers Bureau (Cont.)

Dee has good reason to speak so highly of our speakers. They are the most sought after volunteer speakers, not only from Denton County, but from Dallas, Collin, and Tarrant counties as well. Regular speaking engagements include HOAs, libraries, garden clubs, residential senior living communities, Rotary Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, and many other civic groups and community organizations in Denton County. Speakers Bureau gives up to a hundred presentations a year, reaching an audience of several thousand.

Dee is always looking for additional speakers. Because she is aware that fear of speaking in front of groups can be a concern, she suggests to all interns and other members coming into Speakers Bureau that they tag-team with a seasoned speaker before going solo. The very best speakers study and know their material very well through practice, practice, practice! She says that she lets each individual know that he/she would never have to go it alone. There are many very gifted speakers who are willing to mentor and team up with a new speaker to make it a rewarding experience.

Dee and the speaker volunteers have worked closely with the DCMGA Communications Team putting together printed materials and PowerPoint presentations for our speakers, the membership, and the community. These online materials and presentations are available to download, print, and share at [DCMGA.com](http://DCMGA.com). This same web page provides information on how to schedule a speaker and how to request an "Ask A Master Gardener" booth for a community event.



### Speakers Bureau Members

Ray Roberts, Jr. and Barbara Brown sharing information with 2018 Fall Garden Fest visitors.



### Denton County Master Gardener YouTube Channel

Our virtual General Meetings and other programs can be viewed on our YouTube Channel.  
Check it out! And don't forget to subscribe!

<http://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>



## 2019 State Awards

BY LIZ MOYER

The Texas Master Gardener Association (TMGA) recognizes outstanding results by county associations each year. Recognition is awarded based on the size of the membership, and Denton County competes with other "extra-large" associations with over 200 members. Awards were presented August 20 for 2019 accomplishments.

The Denton County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA) was honored by the TMGA with two awards at the Awards Ceremony:

- Youth – Junior Master Gardener Program – 2nd place – Denton ISD School Days at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center
- Outstanding Project – 2nd place – FMFB Community Garden

Congratulations to each of these projects and many thanks to the project managers and many volunteers who work so hard to promote sustainable horticultural practices in our community.

Additionally, TMGA recognized the following DCMGA members as they celebrated service milestones in 2019:

- Gresha Leamon & Ruth Orpin for 20 years
- Joan Stanley for 25 years

Master Gardeners who completed Advanced Training in 2019 were also honored:

- Janice Goetz – Propagation
- Daniel Arenas & Mike Crawford – Tree Care
- Ann Hillman – Turfgrass
- Cheryl Huckabee – Vegetables

Many thanks to each of these stars for their outstanding service and enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge with our community.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

### FMFB Community Garden

hit the 10,000 lb. milestone last September for fresh produce donated to CCA. This project received 2nd place in the TMGA Search for Excellence Awards.

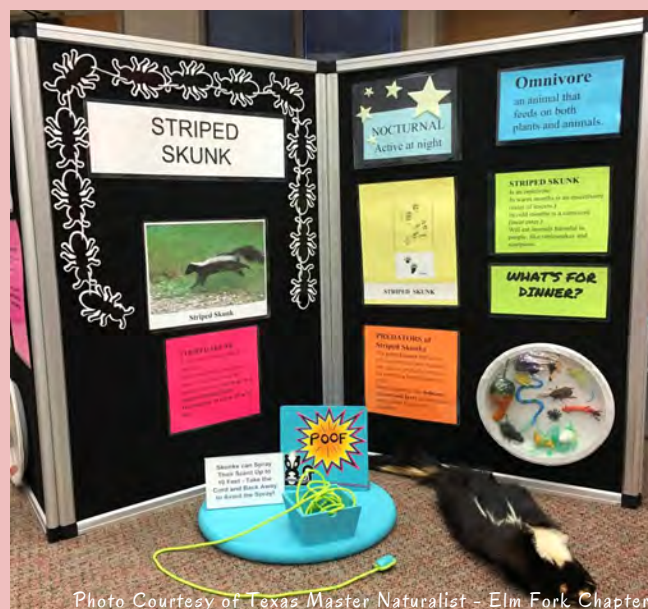


Photo Courtesy of Texas Master Naturalist - Elm Fork Chapter

### This Skunk Exhibit

is just one of many activities enjoyed by DISD 2nd & 4th graders at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center. Our Junior Master Gardener program received 2nd place in the Youth JMG category for helping educate and engage the students.

## Plant of the Month - Special Trees For Special Spots Weeping Redbud and Smoketree

BY LEE ANN YATES

Every once in a while during the dog days of summer, we get a little whiff of fall that gives us the strength to carry on through the heat. On those days, my gardening thoughts turn to fall color and wishing I had more of it in my garden. Shades of green are visually calming and cooling; however, variety is the spice of life. If you need some contrast and depth in your garden, purple is a beautiful complement to green. I've got two lovely purple selections for your landscape that won't make you wait for fall. They are a deep purple for most of the year. Whether you have a small space or room for a BIG tree, purple is the way to go! These splendid plants are included in AgriLife's Water University Top 100 Plants for North Texas.

### **'Ruby Falls' Weeping Redbud**

For small spaces such as a courtyard, corner bed, or near a walkway, or to be a highlight in a larger bed, consider the very ornamental 'Ruby Falls' Weeping Redbud. Yes, it's a redbud! Yes, it has a weeping form! Yes, it's purple! *Cercis canadensis* 'Ruby Falls' is a small, beautiful tree with heart-shaped leaves, pink flowers that appear in early spring before the leaves show, and interesting seed pods. What makes this redbud REALLY stand out is the weeping habit of the branches. This means that the branches from the crown, or top of the tree, as well as other lateral branches grow downward in a "weeping" fashion – like a weeping willow. Deep purply-burgundy, pendulous leaves turn a bronzy-green in late summer. Just imagine how stunning that would be in your garden? 'Ruby Falls' developed as a second generation descendant from a controlled cross between two Redbud cultivars – 'Covey', a green-leaved, weeping variety and 'Forest Pans', a non-weeping, purple-leaved variety – that was patented in 2010.

'Ruby Falls' grows only six to eight feet tall and spreads between five and six feet wide at full maturity. It takes a medium amount of water, especially when getting established of course, and is versatile enough to be planted in full sun, part sun, or part shade. The more sun, the more water will be needed, just like us! Redbuds do not transplant well, so plant a young tree in its perfect place so you can leave it undisturbed.



Photo Courtesy Paul Snyder, OSU (Ohio State University)  
Buckeye Yard & Garden Online, "The Right Redbud For You"

### **'Ruby Falls' Weeping Redbud**

The branches from the crown, or top of the tree, as well as other lateral branches grow downward in a "weeping" fashion – like a weeping willow.



## Special Trees For Special Spots (Cont.)

While 'Ruby Falls' is a deciduous tree, losing its leaves in winter, the rest of the year it is a pollinator and songbird magnet! It provides nectar for bees and birds will dine on the seeds. Deer also find it tasty, so be aware if you have deer marauding through your landscape! Insects such as granulate ambrosia beetles, black twig borers, treehoppers, caterpillars, scales, and leafhoppers will also enjoy devouring 'Ruby Falls' so keep your eyes peeled for these guys and take action if you see them.

Redbuds, 'Ruby Falls' included, are very susceptible to *Botryosphaeria* canker, a fungal disease that feeds on living tissue under the bark of twigs and branches, encircling the branch. The water supply to the leaves is cut off and the branch will suddenly wilt, then die. Drought-stressed Redbuds are most susceptible to this disease. Apply mulch out as far as the drip line of the limbs to keep the soil cooler and more evenly moist in the summer. Pruning out diseased branches when the stems and foliage are dry will significantly help to reduce disease. Throw away the cuttings, do not compost them. Cut six to eight inches below any sunken, cracked, or diseased area. Be sure to disinfect your pruners between cuts with a spray of rubbing alcohol on the blades. Prune at proper angles as wounds are the entry points for this fungal disease. Sadly, there is no fungicide against *Botryosphaeria* canker. Please don't let this scare you off!!! Fortunately, 'Ruby Falls' and other Redbuds don't require much pruning and the preventive care is just good housekeeping, or rather, "yard-keeping" – watering appropriately, mulching correctly, pruning only as needed.

If I could make a suggestion? 'Ruby Falls' would be pretty juxtaposed against evergreens or with lime-y or chartreuse plants. It would work well planted with pink, purple, red, or white perennials like salvias or mistflowers, mixing its weeping form with spikier plants for textural interest. Or whatever combination you desire, considering complementary colors and textures.

### 'Royal Purple' Smoketree

For your second colorful selection, you might choose a larger ornamental native tree with dark purple/burgundy leaves, *Cotinus obovatus* 'Royal Purple.' This American Smoketree cultivar can be trained as an upright tree form or pruned into a multi-trunked shrub. If left to its own devices, 'Royal Purple' can grow at least fifteen to twenty feet tall and up to fifteen feet wide, so be sure to give it plenty of space to attain its natural form. It is a slow grower, so this is a landscape addition you might consider buying in a larger container to start than you might otherwise choose. Want even more color



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Kathy Ratney

### This Two-Year Old Smoketree

stands 4 - 1/2 feet tall, but can grow up to at least 15 - 20 feet tall, so give it plenty of space to attain its natural form.

## Special Trees For Special Spots (Cont.)

from this magnificent specimen? Spring brings pink to purple panicles (loosely branched flower clusters) and in fall, the leaf color spans yellow, orange, and scarlet. In summertime, the blossoms fall leaving hair-like filaments that produce an attractive billowy plume giving a fluffy, hazy, dare I say "smoky" appearance around the tree. The gnarled limb structure and dark, flaking bark provide interest in winter, when Smoketrees drop their leaves.

Native to rocky soils from Kentucky, Tennessee, and northern Alabama west to Oklahoma, there is a separate and distinct population of Smoketrees found in a few central Texas counties where the soil is also quite rocky. Smoketrees tolerate a wide range of soils; however, good drainage is essential. They have shallow, fibrous root systems and don't require much water after getting established, but cannot tolerate wet, poorly-drained soils. Take care to not over-water or over-fertilize Smoketrees – like most natives, they just don't like it! Dry-ish summer weather will promote a vibrant fall color.

Mulching to the drip lines will help protect those shallow roots from hot soil temperatures in Texas, but please for the love of trees, do not create a mulch volcano around the trunk. That is one of the quickest ways to permanently damage a tree! 'Royal Purple' Smoketrees should be planted where they will get full sun for at least six hours daily, or can go in partial sun, and even partial shade. Their gorgeous color tends to be more intense with more sun. Once established, pruning in spring can help force colorful new growth. Native Smoketrees are drought tolerant and have no serious insect or disease problems. They may sometimes be susceptible to leaf spot, rust, or verticillium wilt. They also may suffer from some dieback in very cold winters.

*What is a  
Mulch Volcano?  
Check out the  
DCMGA article  
Mulch Volcano –  
What it is and  
Why it's Bad.*

Not only are Smoketrees attractive to every person who sees them, songbirds enjoy them as well. To add texture as well as color to your landscape, pair 'Royal Purple' with finer textures such as perennial grasses and/or evergreen shrubs such as the Kaleidoscope Abelias I wrote about last month (see August 2020 The Root). The fall pink flower stalks of Pink Muhly Grass (*Mulenbergi capillaris*), would keep the hazy/smoky color theme going – there is a dwarf variety of this grass that might be perfect. Uses in the garden include as a striking single specimen or group plantings as a "smoke" screen (couldn't help myself!) or as a border for a lawn or property edge. There are green varieties of Smoketree also and, if

you are looking for more landscape interest, check out *C. coggygia* 'Golden Spirit' Smoketree. It emerges bright gold, changing to lime green in summer, then to shades of orange and red in fall.



**Redbud Blossoms**

Imagine your friends and neighbors commenting, "Oh my gosh! What is *that gorgeous plant?*" Consider adding these two purple wonders to your landscape this fall. You won't regret it next spring! Happy Gardening!



## Special Trees For Special Spots (Cont.)

### Resources

#### NC State Extension

North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox

"*Cercis canadensis* 'Ruby Falls'"

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/cercis-canadensis-ruby-falls/>

#### Oregon State University

Landscape Plants - "*Cercis canadensis* 'Ruby Falls'"

<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/cercis-canadensis-ruby-falls>

#### Clemson Cooperative Extension

Home & Garden Information Center - "Redbud"

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/redbud/>

#### The Morton Arboretum

Trees & Plants - "Eurasian smoke tree"

<https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/eurasian-smoke-tree#destination>

#### Texas A&M AgriLife

"AgriLife Water University's Top 100 Plants for North Texas"

<https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/top-100-plants-for-north-texas.pdf>

#### Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Plant Database - "*Cotinus obovatus*"

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=coob2](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=coob2)

#### The National Gardening Association

Plants Database - "Smoketrees: Plant Care and Collections of Varieties"

<https://garden.org/plants/group/smoketrees/>



### Denton County Master Gardener Association



This year has brought a resurgence of interest in gardening and with it, an increase in Help Desk activity. With this in mind, the Help Desk page has been updated and streamlined. If you have a gardening/plant question, make the [Help Desk](https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/help-desk/) page your first-stop resource. It's very likely you will quickly and easily find the answers you need.

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/help-desk/>

## **DCMGA Salutes Community Gardens Feeding Those in Need Across Denton County!**

**Here's the results so far this year from a couple of our partners:**

### **Shiloh Field Community Garden**

**Harvest delivered to various food pantries:  
28,500+ lbs.**

### **Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden**

This garden accepts donations of home-grown produce and canned goods on Thursday mornings, 9:00-10:00 am.

#### **Harvest delivered to Christian Community Action**

FMFB: 3,018+ lbs

DCMGA Members: 902+ lbs

**Total: 3,920 lbs**

#### **Canned goods delivered to Christian Community Action**

FMFB: 548 lbs

DCMGA Members: 142+ lbs

**Total: 690+ lbs**

**Plant a Row for the Hungry  
and Help Feed Those in Need!**

**If Everyone does a little,  
Together we can do a Lot!**





## Adaptive Gardening Techniques

BY SUE A. MURRAY

Gardening is a popular outdoor activity. When asked, most gardeners will say it is good for the mind, body, and spirit. Many people think that when they grow older or have mental or physical limitations, that they can no longer enjoy their gardening activities. Not so! It just takes a little more planning and a few changes to the techniques and tools that are used. The most popular approach is a methodology known as "adaptive gardening." Once you understand a person's limitations, then these techniques help you re-think how a person gardens and then develop strategies to modify procedures and devices to help ensure their safety. The two main areas for adaptation are garden design (including location, beds, paths, plants, containers) and tools.

### *Adapting Garden Design*

Now, let's get started. First, we need to do some assessments. How much time does the person have to spend gardening? Be aware that due to age and physical limitations, it may take longer to gather tools, get water, etc. Then, can the person get down to the ground and up again without assistance? Do they have enough arm strength to push up, grab hold, or pull themselves up? Can they drag hoses around or lift watering cans to water the plants? Do they need help walking or use a wheelchair or have problems with vision or memory?

Once any limitations are identified, then a garden design plan can be put into place to address them.

If a person can get up from the ground okay, then ground-level gardening will be possible, but if not, then raised beds, hanging baskets, or container gardening may be the solution. The same would be true for those who have little arm strength. If they will have trouble watering, then consider strategies to reduce watering needs, such as selecting plants that need less water and mulching. For those who need a cane or wheelchair, make sure pathways are wide enough, level, and barrier-free and allow easy access to the garden area. Raising beds or containers to wheelchair level is the best approach for those seated. Visually impaired? Select bright and contrasting colors for plants.

When selecting containers or creating raised beds, your goal is to raise the soil level within easy reach. A soil level 24 to 36 inches from the ground is best for seated gardeners. Add organic material to the soil to make it easier to dig. Larger and heavier sized containers provide stability and support without tipping.

Beds should be no more than three feet across so plants may be reached while kneeling or two feet for seated gardeners. Place hanging baskets at the proper level, depending on whether they will be accessed from a standing or seated position. Vertical gardening is another option, using a trellis or window boxes on walls or fences. An A-frame trellis could even be built to allow a wheelchair to freely pass through.



### **A Raised Bed Garden**

makes access easier for individuals with limited mobility.

## Adaptive Gardening Techniques (Cont.)

Locate the garden in an area that is easily accessible. If a gardener tires easily, place garden chairs or benches in strategic places. Pace yourself and spread projects out over time. Soaker hoses or automated sprinkler systems help with watering chores. To minimize watering and control weeds, use mulch. Install pathways that are firm, level, well-drained, and have good traction. Easy path maintenance is essential. A minimum of 40-inches wide is required for wheelchairs or scooters. A wider space is needed for turning around. Use straight paths and rails for those with visual problems.

Now for plant selection. Use shorter plants (18 - 30 inches) in raised beds and containers so they will not grow out of reach. Plants like tomatoes should be in ground-level beds with cages for easy harvesting. For the visually challenged, besides bright and bold, choose plants with interesting tactile features such as fuzzy leaves, or interesting bark and stems. Install wind chimes or fragrant plants to help the gardener find specific parts of the garden and arrange the plants in groups of three to five in straight rows for easier location. Planting perennials rather than annuals will reduce the work required for older or physically limited gardeners. For the memory impaired, planting favorite herbs, vegetables, or fragrant flowers that help trigger memories is beneficial.

### Adaptive Tools

Enough on design, now onto the tools. There are many tools on the market. Some companies make tools specifically for physical limitations. Good tools make life easier. Some tools even have trigger grip handles and thumb rests to make them easier to use. Lightweight tools are usually easier to handle. Those made of plastic, carbon fiber, or aluminum will be the lightest.

Tools should also be easy to grip and not require great strength to use. Long handles are generally preferable to short, thick ones. There are some exceptions: for wheelchair or seated gardeners, shorter handled tools provide more leverage. Thicker handles help those with arthritic hands. Tools can be made easier to grip by adding foam around the handles. Gardening with the right tool will reduce strain on the body and be less tiring. If you can kneel, then a foam kneeling pad will make gardening more comfortable. Get tired easily? Try a rolling cart with a padded seat. Transport tools in a garden cart or a plastic wheeled garbage pail. For the memory impaired, skip the sharp tools. Paint tools bright colors to minimize losing them. Label them for use and store them in the same place.

### Preparing The Body To Garden

For older adults and to save wear and tear on the body, before gardening stretch your back by bending at the waist and stretch your arms by reaching over your head to the extent that is comfortable. When actively working the soil, keep your elbows close to your body for digging or raking and be sure to



### Ergonomic Tools

make gardening tasks easier on the body.



## Adaptive Gardening Techniques (Cont.)

avoid long periods bent. Keep the work area close to your body. Avoid reaching and twisting. It is better to move closer to the work area.

For those with back and hip problems: keep your back straight when digging, use long-handled tools, and garden in raised beds or containers. Leg and knee problems? Garden from a chair using long-handled tools, and use a luggage cart to move the tool container and garden materials. For those with heart and lung or stamina issues, warm up with lighter tasks first, work at trunk level rather than reaching or bending, avoid lifting or holding things for long periods, use electric equipment instead of manual, and minimize walking distance between house, garden, and tool storage. A pulley system to raise and lower hanging plants is helpful.

For those suffering from dementia, raised beds make gardening more accessible, use non-toxic plants, create a garden in a circle or figure eight so there are no confusing dead-ends, and keep the activity lighthearted.

Of course we want to garden smarter, not harder. Gardening gives your mind a rest from worrying, but pace yourself and delegate tasks that are too difficult. Ask for help when needed. Be organized and vary your tasks. Take time to enjoy yourself and "be a kid," no matter what your age!

### References

*Kansas State Univsity, Research and Extension*

"Gardening with Older Adults for Health and Nutrition"

[www.ksre.k-state.edu/humannutrition/nutrition-topics/older-adults/olderadults-documents/GardenManual.pdf](http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/humannutrition/nutrition-topics/older-adults/olderadults-documents/GardenManual.pdf)

*HGTV - "Accessible Gardening Techniques"*

<https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/gardens/planting-and-maintenance/accessible-gardening-techniques>

*Oregon State University - OSU Extension Service*

"Making Gardening Easier: Adaptive Gardening Techniques for the Visually Impaired"

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em84.98>

*NCHPAD (National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability)*

"Gardening Adaptations"

<https://www.nchpad.org/14.96/644.9/Accessible~Gardening>

*alzheimers.net - "Gardening Therapy Tips for People with Alzheimer's"*

<https://www.alzheimers.net/2014-06-16-gardening-helps-alzheimers>

*National Garden Bureau - "10 Adaptive Gardening Rules to Live By"*

[ngb.org/2019/10/02/10-adaptive-gardening-rules/](http://ngb.org/2019/10/02/10-adaptive-gardening-rules/)

## Be Part Of The Solution!

### *Why Becoming a Master Gardener Is More Important Than Ever*

BY KIM WOOTTON, DCMGA CLASS PLANNING CHAIR

Currently, the world is seeing a surge in gardening, as people are seeking calming, family-friendly activities that can be done safely at home. Recent statistics show that seed sales are jumping worldwide. Moreover, garden centers and nurseries are finding that plants, seeds, and gardening equipment continue to fly off their shelves in unprecedented numbers. In fact, Burpee Seeds Chairman, George Ball, told Reuters, "that they sold more seeds in March than any time in its 144-year history, forcing the company to (place a) hold on new orders for one week to play catch up." [1] In late March, interest in gardening hit an all-time high. According to Google Trends, "searches for 'growing vegetables from scraps' was up 4,650% from year's past . . . and even social media reflects this growing demand: As of right now, the hashtag #victorygarden has been added to more than 66,000 Instagram posts." [2] Our own Denton County Master Gardener Association website had over 60,000 hits in March alone!



**Master Gardeners Serve As Judges**  
for the annual Denton County Fruit,  
Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show. They help  
entrants understand how to grow  
the best produce and what to do with it once  
it's harvested.

Further, it has been scientifically documented by the National Center for Biotechnology Information that gardening is beneficial to overall health. According to the NCBI,

1. Gardens provide a place for experiencing nature which is proven to benefit mental health, cognitive functioning and emotional well-being.
2. Gardening reduces depression, anxiety, obesity and heart disease as well as increasing life satisfaction, quality of life and sense of community.
3. Gardens are essential to supporting recovery from illness and merely looking at gardens can reduce stress, blood pressure and muscle tension. [3]

[1] "Home gardening blooms around the world during coronavirus ...." 19 Apr. 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-gardens/home-gardening-blooms-around-the-world-during-coronavirus-lockdowns-idUSKBN2220D3>. Accessed 24 Aug. 2020.

[2] "Victory Gardens Are Making a Comeback Amid the ...." 13 May. 2020, <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/gardening/a32452189/what-is-a-victory-garden-coronavirus-pandemic/>. Accessed 24 Aug. 2020.

[3] "Gardening is beneficial for health: A meta-analysis - NCBI." 14 Nov. 2016, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5153451/>. Accessed 24 Aug. 2020.



## Be Part Of The Solution! (Cont.)

The role of Master Gardeners helping our neighbors learn to be successful in their gardens is now more important than ever as we help our communities through this difficult time. Our Mission Statement says it all: "As Texas Master Gardeners, our mission is to promote safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices through community education and volunteer service projects throughout Denton County."

Indeed, Denton County Master Gardener Association volunteers possess superior training and expertise, gained from classes taught by the leading experts in their fields of horticulture. They've also accumulated a wealth of experience at the large number of local projects with which they regularly participate. As such, DCMGA members are uniquely qualified to meet the needs and concerns of residents in their own communities who are seeking help as they acquire their own gardening skills.



**Master Gardeners Take A Break**  
for some fun and games while setting up the Plant Sale.

The Denton County Master Association would like to invite you to apply to be part of our Class of 2021. Visit [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com) and click on "Become A Master Gardener" for the online application and details. Now, more than ever, our community needs the help of Master Gardeners. We look forward to meeting you!



## North Texas Giving Day

North Texas Giving Day is a fabulous event matching thousands of donors across the North Texas area with vetted nonprofits working on issues of concern to them. The Denton County Master Gardener Association has been one of those recipient organizations and have been very grateful for all your support.

Although we are not participating in this year's Giving Day, we encourage you to seek out food banks in the area for your donations. Their need is immediate and great. Thank you for helping feed Denton County.

For more information on North Texas Giving Day, visit their website:  
<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/>



# Fall Garden Fest

**BY SHARRIE ELY**

*Denton County Master Gardener Association  
is excited to present four speakers for our annual  
FREE garden-education event,  
Fall Garden Fest.*



**Register today for the DCMGA Fall Garden Fest ONLINE!**

*to be broadcast via Zoom on Saturday, October 3, 2020.*

*Register online for each talk for FREE using the links below,*

or visit [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com) or our Facebook Page,

Denton County Master Gardener Association, to register for this free event.

## Fall is the best time to garden in North Texas!

We offer you these great talks on topics for productive and beautiful vegetable gardens, preparing your landscape for fall and winter, important tips for your turf care, and great ways to save water in your landscape.

All talks will be presented live on October 3 with several incredible giveaways at each talk.

**So be sure to register and attend on October 3!**

*If unable to attend, these talks will be available online the following week (giveaways awarded only during the live event).*

## Fall Garden Fest Speakers



October 3, 10:00 am

**Dr. Hennen Cummings**

## "What Your North Texas Turf Needs"

*Register for this talk at:*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtcOmqqjsvEtX-](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=addon&url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtZEtcOmqqjsvEtX-RxBI9Vf_xrImbCkUCJpp)  
[RxBI9Vf\\_xrImbCkUCJpp](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=addon&url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtZEtcOmqqjsvEtX-RxBI9Vf_xrImbCkUCJpp)

***Talk Description:*** One of the most-asked questions that comes to North Texas Master Gardener Help Desks is how to take care of lawn turf. Tune in to learn about the basics of Turf Care and hear Dr. Cummings discuss what is needed for your North Texas Turf. Maintenance for North Texas turf grass during the fall and winter will also be discussed.



**Bio:** Dr. Hennen Cummings is an Associate Professor at Tarleton State University. Dr. Cummings has evaluated experimental herbicides, insecticides, nematicides, plant growth regulators, turfgrass paints and pigments, gypsum formulations, soil wetting agents, biostimulants, microbes, traffic



## Fall Garden Fest (Cont.)

injury abatement systems, new turfgrass and other plant varieties, and fertilizers using visual estimates of quality, injury, density, and control. He has access to regional golf courses with nesting blue herons, deer, wild hogs, armadillo, and numerous passerine species for studies of urban wildlife. The Tarleton State University Turfgrass Field Laboratory has 12 species of irrigated cool- and warm-season turfgrasses maintained at various mowing heights and levels. Dr. Cummings also has experience in environmental site assessment and environmental impact mitigation. His doctoral work examined pesticide movement in row crop and turfgrass systems. Visit [Tarleton.edu](http://Tarleton.edu) for more info.

Dr. Hennen Cummings Giveaways: (*only awarded at the Online Live Event*)

- Five (5) one-year subscriptions to the *Texas Gardener* magazine awarded to five different attendees  
Donated by *Texas Gardener*, [texasgardener.com](http://texasgardener.com)



October 3, 12:00 pm

Dee Nash

"Beautiful and Productive Vegetable Gardens"

Register for this talk at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=5555555555&pwd=5555555555>  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=5555555555&pwd=5555555555>



**Talk Description:** Come join us as we explore beautiful vegetable gardens throughout the United States and England to harvest ideas on structure, symmetry, and color for our own Texas gardens. Dee will help us incorporate garden design into our vegetable spaces. Plus, we get to take a trip without leaving our homes!

**Bio:** Dee Nash, professional garden writer, speaker, podcast host, author, travel writer and blogger gardens on seven acres in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Her first book, *The 20-30 Something Garden Guide: A No-Fuss, Down and Dirty, Gardening 101 for Anyone Who Wants to Grow Stuff* was published in 2014 and is a wonderful reference for the beginning gardener (not just those in the 20-30 range).

Dee's blog, [Red Dirt Ramblings](http://RedDirtRamblings.com), won the Garden Writers Association's Gold Award for Best Electronic Writing in 2014. *Better Homes and Gardens* named RDR one of its "Top Ten Gardening Blogs" in 2014, and *Southern Living* magazine named Dee one of its "30 Bloggers to Follow" in 2015 and 2016.

Dee, along with her husband, Bill, maintains a vegetable garden, a wildflower meadow, honey bees, and several perennial garden areas which include some of her favorites, daylilies and roses. You can find her at her blog [reddirtrambblings.com](http://reddirtrambblings.com) and on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and listen to her podcast (along with Carol Michel) *The Gardenangelists*, on your favorite podcast venue.

Dee Nash Giveaways: (*only awarded at the Online Live Event*)

- Three (3) copies of Dee Nash's book, *The 20-30 Something Garden Guide: A No-Fuss, Down and Dirty, Gardening 101 for Anyone Who Wants to Grow Stuff* will be mailed to three different attendees of the Live Event.

## Fall Garden Fest (Cont.)

- One (1) copy of *Kitchen Garden Revival: A Modern Guide to Creating a Stylish, Small-Scale, Low-Maintenance Edible Garden* by Nicole Johnsey Burke to one Live Event attendee
- One (1) copy of *Mastering the Art of Vegetable Gardening: Rare Varieties – Unusual Options-Plant Lore & Guidance* by Matt Mattus to one Live Event attendee
- One (1) copy of *The Truth About Organic Gardening: Benefits, Drawbacks, and the Bottom Line* by Jeff Gillman to one Live Event attendee



October 3, 1:30 pm

Toni Moorehead

"Fall/Winter Tips & To-Do's for North Central Texas Gardens"

**Register for this talk at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqd-yopzgpEtbHfpSf9CUHt1naCQT6WPuH>



**Talk Description:** Learn about all the fall/winter landscape maintenance needed for your North Central Texas Gardens, as well as design tips and plant choices for fall and winter interest.

Learn about fertilizing, weed control, and planting wildflowers, bulbs, annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, and veggies for fall/winter. Learn about designing the winter "bones" of the garden for winter interest.

**Bio:** Toni Moorehead has been an active Tarrant County Master Gardener since 2005. She is a Texas Certified Landscape Professional since 2013 and the Owner and Garden Designer for *Signature Gardens* ([signaturegardens.blogspot.com](http://signaturegardens.blogspot.com)). She is also an active member of the Grapevine Garden Club since 2002.

Toni has lived in Texas since 1986 and moved to Grapevine in 1988. She grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. She states that she has "been diggin' in the dirt a long time!" and loves to help people learn to love gardening in Texas.

Toni oversees the landscape maintenance at Countryside Bible church in Southlake. She was a freelance court reporter for 17 years and in 2002 she traded in her transcripts for trowels and left lawyers for landscapes and has never looked back!

Toni's Garden has been featured on the Colleyville "Promenade Garden Tour" and on the Southlake "Spin into Spring" Garden Tour, and on the Grapevine Garden Club and Master Gardener Tours. Toni has also written several articles for the *Grapevine Garden Club Newsletter* and wrote a column for the Tarrant County MGA newsletter called "Toni's Tips."

Visit Toni on [Facebook](#) at [Signature Gardens](#) or her garden blog at [signaturegardens.blogspot.com](http://signaturegardens.blogspot.com).



## Fall Garden Fest (Cont.)

Giveaways: (only awarded at the Online Live Event)

- Ten (10) Top 100 Plants for North Texas card decks from Water University



October 3, 3:30 pm

Betsy Marsh, Tarrant Regional Water District

"Gardens that Give Back:

Lovely, Low-Water, Life-Giving Landscapes"

**Register for this talk at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkdOqrqjSpHdS7zNlQBUC-OYoiSIReqWE>



**Talk Description:** Bloom where you're planted. Sometimes this is easier said than done! Here in North Texas, we may be blessed with abundant rains one year and hardly any the next. With lots of folks moving this way, water conservation is now just a part of life. Yet we can create beautiful gardens that thrive with little water and give back to us in the very best ways. Betsy Marsh, Conservation Education Coordinator for the Tarrant Regional Water District, will share her adventures gardening with Texas native plants, explain how they make a difference, and help you discover new ways to bloom in North Texas.

**Bio:** Betsy Marsh is the Conservation Education Coordinator for the Tarrant Regional Water District and a Tarrant County Master Gardener. Growing up camping in Texas state parks, native plants stole her heart at a young age and she has been gardening with Texas natives for more than a decade. She attended the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Michigan where she received an MS in Natural Resource Policy and Behavior. As a program coordinator and consultant for various non-profit organizations, she worked with many indigenous, environmental, and human rights advocates from the U.S. and Latin America before settling with her family in Grapevine. Most recently, she worked for the City of Grapevine Parks and Recreation Department developing environmental education programs, helping schools create native plant gardens, managing habitat restoration efforts, and promoting biodiversity research.

Visit [trwd.com](http://trwd.com) for more information.

Giveaways: (only awarded at the Online Live Event)

- Three (3) \$25 E-Giftcards from Painted Flower Farm will be emailed to the winner.  
Donated by [Painted Flower Farm](http://Painted Flower Farm), [paintedflowerfarm.com](http://paintedflowerfarm.com)
- Three (3) Rain barrels with a brass spigot (each winner must be a resident of Collin, Dallas, Denton, or Tarrant County for delivery)



DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
**FALL GARDEN FEST ONLINE**  
 OCTOBER 3 SATURDAY  
 SIGN UP TODAY

# Give Fall Vegetable Gardening A Chance

BY BARBARA BROWN

By the end of August, most North Texans are beyond tired of hot days and ready for cooler temperatures. Vegetable gardeners especially look forward to fall because they know it is time to plant cooler weather veggies. Did you know that there are two official definitions of when fall begins?

**Trivia** - There are meteorological seasons and astronomical seasons. To simplify seasonal comparisons over several years, meteorologists divide the four seasons into 3-month long groups. So, meteorological fall begins September 1. Most of us, however, use the autumnal equinox to define the beginning of fall, which will occur on September 22, 2020.

Are there good reasons to try growing vegetables in a fall garden? YES!

- Fewer bugs
- Less damaging weather
- A longer growing period than in the spring
- Leafy greens and crucifers (cauliflower, cabbage, kale, garden cress, bok choy, broccoli, Brussels sprouts) are frost-tolerant
- Because the days are getting shorter some vegetable crops store more sugar and have better flavor than spring grown crops

## *Some fall vegetable crop options*

Many vegetables produce well in fall gardens. For a complete list, check out:

- "Vegetable Variety" recommendations for Denton County  
[http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg\\_variety/](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg_variety/)
- "Vegetable Planting Guide for North Central Texas"  
<http://dallas-tx.tamu.edu/files/2010/06/Vegetable-Planting-Guide.pdf>

Before planting, clean up the soil by removing weeds and other plant materials. Plan on adding some nitrogen as that depletes fairly quickly and incorporate some composted materials to the soil. Have plenty of mulch available to place around, but not touching, the plants to help moderate soil temperatures and retain moisture. A soaker-type hose can be placed under the mulch to provide supplemental water and it has the benefit of not getting water on the leaves, which can lead to fungal infections.

Here are three possible additions to your garden that can be planted in September:

### *Bush green bean*

Botanical name: *Phaseolus vulgaris*

When to plant: early September

Seed or seedling? seeds

Recommended varieties for North Texas: Blue Lake, Tendercrop, Contender

**Plant care:** Green beans grow best in well-drained soil with plenty of sunlight. While bush beans need little or no support, their cousins— pole beans—grow much taller and need a trellis to keep them upright.

## Give Fall Vegetable Gardening A Chance (Cont.)

Soaking bush bean seeds before planting is not recommended. For bush beans, plant the seeds about 1 inch deep and 1 to 2 inches apart. Thin plants to 6 to 8 inches apart as they begin to fill out and stretch their stems. Green beans are ready to pick when they are about the size of a small pencil. More info:

- "Growing bush beans successfully"

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenef57c.html>

**Using your green bean harvest:** A very versatile vegetable that is low in calories with a nice dose of vitamin C. Many families have favorite green bean recipes that often include either melted yellow cheese or cream of mushroom soup and crispy fried onions. Extra green beans can be frozen, after parboiling to kill surface bacteria, or pickled.

### Swiss chard

Botanical name: *Beta vulgaris*, many cultivars

When to plant: September

Seed or seedling? either

Recommended varieties for North Texas: Bright Lights, Fordhook Giant, Rhubarb Red

**Plant care:** Swiss chard does best in well-drained soil in either full sun or light shade. Sow the seeds 1/2-inch-deep or plant seedlings 12 inches apart. You can add swiss chard into your landscape to add some red or yellow highlights, into your vegetable garden, or you can grow it in a container. Give the plants some supplemental water while the daytime temperatures are still in the 80s or 90s.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

**Swiss Chard**



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

**Bush Green Beans**

**Using:** You can start harvesting chard when the leaves are 6 to 8 inches long. Harvesting outer leaves allow the plant to continue to put on new growth from the center. Low in calories, chard offers an abundance of vitamins A and C. Young leaves can be added to salads with or without the center spine and older leaves can be stir-fried or sautéed.

### Cauliflower

Botanical name: *Brassica oleracea*, many cultivars

When to plant: mid to late September

Seed or seedling? seedlings

Recommended varieties for North Texas: Alverda, Majestic, Snow Crown, Snowball Y Improved



## Give Fall Vegetable Gardening A Chance (Cont.)

**Plant care:** Plant cauliflower as average temperatures begin to cool into the 80s as it does not appreciate extreme heat. The grown plant can become fairly large so give at least one foot to 18 inches on all sides. Keep soil moist but not soaked.

**Cooking:** Rinse the cauliflower head to remove any sand or soil and cut it into florets. Cauliflower can be steamed, boiled, roasted, or baked. If your family is not too excited about eating cauliflower, try making "mock" mash potatoes by placing the cooked florets in a food processor with a bit of cream cheese, butter, parmesan cheese, salt and pepper. Process until the consistency is similar to mashed potatoes.

Give fall vegetable gardening a try. You will be able to enjoy the taste and health benefits of fresh garden vegetables in the months to come.

### Resources

*Texas A&M AgriLife*

"Vegetable Variety" recommendations for Denton County

[http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg\\_variety/](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg_variety/)

"Vegetable Planting Guide for North Central Texas"

<http://dallas-tx.tamu.edu/files/2010/06/Vegetable-Planting-Guide.pdf>

*Cornell University*

Home Gardening

"Growing bush beans successfully"

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenef57c.html>

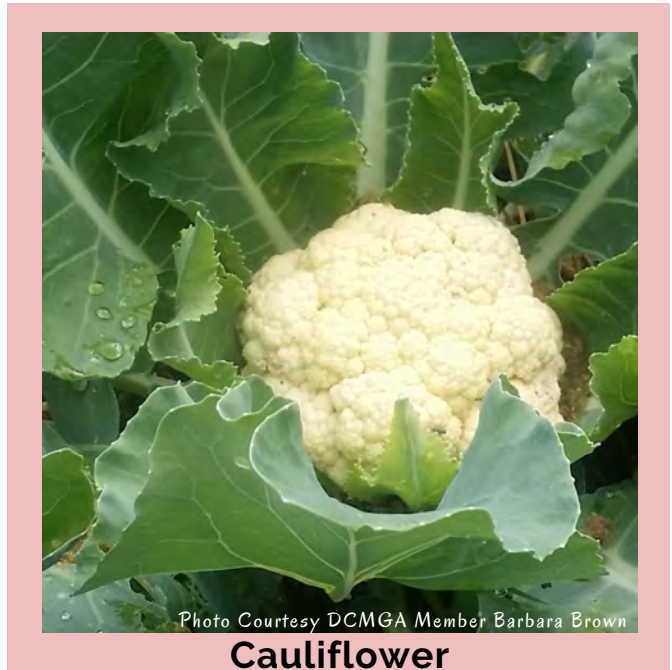


Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

**Cauliflower**



Swiss Chard Canva Stock Photo



## SWAt Is Going Virtual!

BY TAMMIE GURLEY

The Science With Attitude (SWAt) team is going virtual this Fall offering distance learning programs for schools and groups. Since most schools are distance learning (online class) to start the school year or if they are returning to campus, outside volunteers are not allowed, SWAt decided to join in and embrace teaching our popular topics through virtual programs. Currently we are updating our website to allow teachers to still request topics and dates for a SWAt member to join their class remotely and teach a topic.

Since the usual field trips to Clear Creek this Fall have been cancelled, we have decided to have a virtual Clear Creek ... LIVE! The DISD School Days at Clear Creek is also going virtual with 5 topics that will be broadcast to the schools via Zoom. Dates are still being determined, but the topics will include snakes, bees, pelts (mammals of Clear Creek), forces of nature (with the water table), and a guided hike.

Stay tuned for more updates on our SWAt virtual programs or join us for our monthly meeting every fourth Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to get involved with SWAt, please contact: Tammie Gurley (MG) & Toni Benjamin (MN).



## Fall Garden Tour Falls Victim To Pandemic, But DCMGA Enthusiasm Doesn't!

Sadly, our Garden Tour, postponed from May to October, has now been canceled. We thank all of the guests who donated their ticket purchases to our local food bank CCA in Lewisville, enabling a generous gift to the community.

Never fear! We are busy making plans to continue our events for 2021 with adjustments to bring you quality programming in a safe way. We hope that you all will mark your calendars for Saturday, May 8, 2021, and join us for our Spring Garden Tour.

And we are pleased to announce that the gardens slated for our tour this year will be in the spotlight again as the homes chosen for our Spring 2022 Tour!





## When One Door Closes, Another Opens

With the cancellation of the 2020 Garden Tour (sniff) came an opportunity to help our community in another way. With ticket sales well underway before the cancellation, we contacted all ticket holders and gave them a choice of receiving a refund or donating the money to the Christian Community Action Food Pantry.

Almost everyone who had purchased a ticket to the Tour opted to donate the money! This \$1510 will help the Food Pantry feed many families.

DCMGA is pleased to have been the go-between to get these generous donations to the Pantry and we delivered the check on August 27.



Photos Courtesy Dawn Cobb, Denton County Director of Community Relations

DCMGA President Kathryn Wells, CCA President & CEO Gilbert Montez, DCMGA VP-Projects Joanne Spurgin, and DCMGA Garden Tour Manager Karen Roberts celebrate DCMGA's donation of \$1510 to the CCA Food Pantry.



CCA President & CEO Gilbert Montez, DCMGA Garden Tour Manager Karen Roberts, CCA Church & Volunteer Relations Manager Thelma Cantu, DCMGA VP-Projects Joanne Spurgin, and DCMGA President Kathryn Wells celebrate DCMGA's donation of \$1510 to the CCA Food Pantry.

*Thank you, Denton County, for your generosity!*



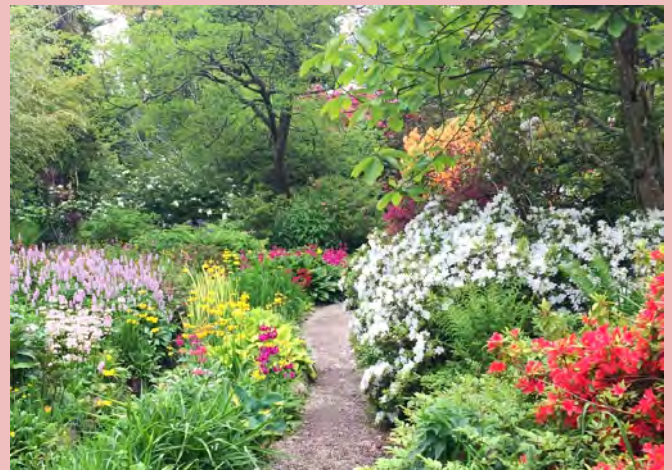
## Garden Visits

### Mount Usher Gardens – A Gem In The Emerald Isle

BY MICHELE RAWLEIGH

*Editor's Note: When Master Gardeners travel, they like to visit other gardens. This column gives you the opportunity to "visit" a garden you might not otherwise see. Many thanks to DCMGA Member Michele Rawleigh for sharing with us her visit to this amazing garden in Ireland.*

I've been to Ireland twice now after finding cousins that lived in the same house that my great-great-grandmother left in 1860 to come to America. That first visit was all about meeting tons of newfound relatives. This second time, though, was about seeing the sights. My Irish cousin James knew I had just been in England touring fabulous gardens and attending the Chelsea Flower Show, so he had a surprise when he picked me up at my Dublin hotel. Instead of heading west to our ancestral homeland, we went south. In about thirty minutes, we were in Ashford, home to the idyllic Mount Usher Gardens. I was about to experience one of Ireland's most famous gardens.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Michele Rawleigh

Construction of the private gardens started in the 1880s and was based on the landscape designs of Irishman William Robinson. His designs reflected the emerging naturalistic Arts and Crafts movement, a precursor to the still popular English cottage garden style. It was quite a contrast to the formal gardens of the Victorian era.

Today, Mount Usher is considered one of the best remaining Robinsonian examples. I didn't know that when we arrived, but I did know it was something special. The River Vartry gently flows through the property taking you back in time. During my visit, the azaleas and rhododendrons were in full bloom and were a stunning backdrop for the photo opportunities that were around every bend.





## Garden Visits (Cont.)

Despite the multitude of visitors annually, once inside the gate, the property still feels like someone's home. The grounds are all maintained organically and host a variety of wildlife. It's romantic, colorful, and peaceful, as well



as informative. It's just the kind of garden I would have for myself if I had 20 acres, a gardening staff, an accommodating climate, and unlimited funds to collect and maintain 5000 species of plants and trees!

Mount Usher is not just a pretty place, though. The garden is home to several noted botanical collections, including conifers, eucalyptus, camellias, azaleas, and rhododendrons. The free Tree Trail guide highlights several champion trees and unusual specimens. There's a lot to see and learn if you are so inclined. Or you can just relax and commune with nature.

Monty Don, the UK's popular gardening guru, calls Mount Usher one of his ten favorite gardens anywhere. It's now one of my favorites too.





## Online Education Opportunities

### For Master Gardeners and the Community We Serve

Science-based knowledge on a variety of topics in an innovative and interactive virtual format.

### AgriLife Online Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Most, but not all, are free.)

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=Plants-and-Garden>

### AgriLife Online Pest & Weed Control Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Some are free, some are inexpensive, some are pricey.)

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=Pest-and-Weed-Control>

### Earth-Kind® Online Master Gardener Training

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>

### Introduction to Plant Identification

UDSA NRCS Science & Technology

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/introduction-to-plant-identification>

### Aggie Horticulture YouTube

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkScRV0HlN3Hi1\\_KUQ/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkScRV0HlN3Hi1_KUQ/)

### Chat With Green Aggies webinars

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2020/06/01/chat-with-green-aggies-webinars-about-all-things-green/>

### Gardening 101 + Virtual Learning Series

Aggie Horticulture

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Texas AgriLife posted great videos to the Aggie Horticulture Facebook page twice/week for four months ending 6/30. Topics range from Soil Preparation to Making Cocktails from your Garden. View them at:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/Aggie-Horticulture-26803072143/1541129202716211/>

Beginning July 1, AgriLife has moved away from Facebook Live events. You will now be required to REGISTER for their events online through their website:

<https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/>

As always, their classes are FREE and no credit card info will be collected. Once registered, you will be emailed a link from which to attend the class. Class links will be sent out the day of the event to prevent spamming. There is no need to download anything with the new virtual class platform. It will play through your internet browser.

### DCMGA Members

Watch for a VMS email with current Online CE Opportunities.

See our [Member Handbook](#) for approved CE sources and guidelines.

Note that members may claim up to three hours of annual discretionary education; veteran members with 10+ years of service may claim up to six.



## Online Education Opportunities (Cont.)

### DCMGA General Meeting CE Presentations

"The Ease of Effective Hardscaping"

"Preserving the Harvest"

"Growing Green and Saving Blue,"

Daniel Cunningham, AgriLife

"Gardens Gone Wild"

"Getting Buggy"

Business meetings

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>

### Chat with Green Aggies

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

This and Every Thursday at 12:12 pm

ONE SINGLE registration link

[https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJotcOirqDkiH9w6M\\_JofkPxSnM-8ZHvqqfz](https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJotcOirqDkiH9w6M_JofkPxSnM-8ZHvqqfz)

Pick any or all Chat for every week on Thursday until Oct 29, 2020 -- 10 occurrence(s).

All previous recordings.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH)

[list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH)

### Fall Gardening

Aggie Horticulture

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Fall is the best time to vegetable garden in North Texas because gardeners enjoy a higher success rate with their crops, fewer pests and more comfortable temperatures. Dr. Joe Masabni from Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension gets you prepared by reviewing all the basic cultural garden practices and then takes you through the various cool season crops suitable for a fall garden in our area.

<https://dallaslibrary.librarymarket.com/events/dpl-home-grow-us-fall-gardening>

Registration for this event will close on September 14, 2020 @ 12:00 pm. This free program is available online only.

### AgriLife Water University Youtube

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiwRr zQNaWP4EJVMTru48GA>

No Facebook Required

Join Denton County MGA  
in cyberspace for our  
September General Meeting  
& Program.

Immediately following business meeting, we're pleased to welcome Texas A&M Extension Viticulture Program Specialist Michael Cook, who will present "Growing Backyard Grapes".

**Advance registration is required.**

Free of charge.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Denton AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.



#### BY HELP DESK TEAM

*Q: I've recently moved to Denton County from California, where growing year-round was easy, and I knew most of the plants that grew there. My yard here is full of trees and plants I'm unfamiliar with. I assume Master Gardeners don't provide on-site consultations—can you recommend someone who does? I have an interest in natives, permaculture, food forests, and how, in Texas, one finds a balance between encouraging pollinators while not over-encouraging the wasp population!*

**A:** Welcome to Texas! Here are some suggestions and websites to get you started. DCMGA also has a [Help Desk](#) to answer specific questions if you get stuck.

Your instinct is correct that, as an all-volunteer organization, we cannot make site visits. As a state-sponsored organization, we are also prohibited from making direct recommendations to specific commercial entities. However, we are happy to suggest reliable resources near you.

- Scour the Denton County Master Gardener Association [website](#), in particular the drop-down menu titled "North Texas Gardening." Under "[Handouts and Presentations](#)" look for "Texas Tough Plants" for a number of links and resources for native and adapted plants. There are a number of links pertaining to growing food, as well. We also have a [Facebook page](#) and an [Instagram page](#), if you use social media.

- On the [Texas Master Gardener Association webpage](#), scroll down to "Resources" towards the bottom of the page. Please note the site is undergoing an update at the moment, so it may have reduced functionality during the transition.
- Visit locally-owned nurseries near you. Look for [Texas Nursery and Landscape Association certification](#) on the nurseries' websites.
- We recommend having your soil tested before establishing a garden or applying amendments. [Texas A&M University's Soil Testing Laboratory](#) offers affordable, reliable analysis. The [soil testing form](#) includes instructions for collecting samples.
- Plant identification resources, especially with regard to [wildlife and avoiding invasive plants](#).
- Many of our members are active in the Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Their [website](#) contains newsletters and native plant information sheets.
- For insect information, "[Insects in the City](#)" is a resource provided by Texas A&M University entomologists, as is [insect identification](#).
- The Facebook page "Antman's Hil" is operated by a former Texas A&M entomologist and other volunteers. It is a science-based, friendly community of experts and novices alike. They might be especially helpful with regard to the concern about wasps. (Continued ...)



Stock Photo Courtesy of f Canva



- Another A&M resource of great value is Water University. As the name implies, it encourages responsible, effective use of water resources in our homes, businesses, and gardens, and best of all, it is backed by science-based research.
- Piggybacking on the water conservation concern, we recommend the website Water My Yard. Another A&M free resource, it gives valuable, real-time recommendations for irrigation in your zip code area. North Texas soil is largely clay loam, so watering can be tricky. Read about "cycle and soak" to understand the challenge of irrigating clay soil.
- We may have plant diseases in North Texas unfamiliar to you. The Texas A&M Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory has a website and Facebook page for your use.
- Some consider trees to be the most valuable landscape element. To care for your trees, we recommend only using a certified arborist. We also recommend getting an opinion and estimate from more than one provider, if possible. This website will help you find a local, certified arborist, should you need one.
- If time permits, you might consider becoming a Denton County Master Gardener. Information about the course can be found on our dedicated website page.

As you become familiar with your property, as well as our weather and growing conditions, please contact us again should you need assistance.

Best wishes in making Texas your home!

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*If you have questions about any horticulture-related subjects, please contact our Master Gardener Help Desk at 940.349.2892 or [master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com).*

*It's free of charge,  
and it's our pleasure to assist you.*

## SEPTEMBER TURF TIP

# TIME TO APPLY PRE-EMERGENT TO YOUR NORTH TEXAS LAWN

### MID-SEPTEMBER THROUGH EARLY OCTOBER

THERE'S A SPECIFIC TIME-FRAME TO APPLY



Apply Fall pre-emergents when soil temperatures drop to around 70F for 4-5 consecutive nights or when nighttime lows are 60-65F. This will vary a lot from year to year and region to region. For North TX, this is typically between mid-September to early October. Your time is limited!

### STOP THE GROWTH OF COOL WEATHER WEEDS

ONCE THE COLD WEATHER USHERS IN WITH  
RAIN AND A COLD FRONT - IT'S TOO LATE

A pre-emergent application will inhibit the seeds before they can 'emerge' or germinate in the cooler weather.



### REMEMBER, NOW IS THE TIME

DON'T MISS THIS BRIEF WINDOW FOR TREATMENT



If you miss this deadline, then the cool-season annual seeds will germinate and it will be another year before you can treat them.

### WHAT TO APPLY

CORN GLUTEN MEAL OR BENEFIN?

Corn Gluten Meal can have a success of up to 60% if it does not receive rain for five to seven days after it is applied. Benefin will only be effective if applied in the short time frame from mid-September to October. To read more about these options, visit <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Preemergence-Herbicide-Guide-6.pdf>



### CHECK OUT MORE INFORMATION

ANOTHER RESOURCE FROM TEXAS A&M



To learn more about weed identification and treatment for cool and warm season weeds, be sure to visit [http://publications.tamu.edu/TURF\\_LANDSCAPE/PUB\\_turf\\_Herbicides%20for%20Weed%20Control%20in%20Turfgrass.pdf](http://publications.tamu.edu/TURF_LANDSCAPE/PUB_turf_Herbicides%20for%20Weed%20Control%20in%20Turfgrass.pdf)

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Questions? Contact our Help Desk

email: [master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com)

PHONE: 940.349.2892







**TEXAS**  
**MASTER GARDENER**

**Want to Be a  
Master  
Gardener?**

DENTON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Now Recruiting for Our  
2021 Intern Class

Applications Accepted  
August 10 - October 23, 2020

**JOIN US** for our General Meeting via  
Zoom on **October 14, 2020**, as well as,  
an Informational Meeting via Zoom  
**October 20, 2020 at 10 am**  
Zoom registration will be posted on  
website as date approaches

Details and applications  
available at  
[www.dcmga.com](http://www.dcmga.com)

**#GrowWithUs**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.  
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County  
Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

We seek to provide reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities for this  
program and ask that you notify the Denton County AgriLife Extension Office of the  
auxiliary aid or service that will be required.





**ONLINE ON OCTOBER 3**  
**GIVEAWAYS AT THE LIVE EVENT**



**TEACHING  
SUSTAINABILITY  
FOR YOUR  
NORTH TEXAS  
GARDEN**

Denton County Master Gardener Association educates and engages county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices that create sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities.



Denton County Master Gardener  
Association

**FALL  
GARDEN  
FEST  
ONLINE!**

**OCTOBER 3**  
**SATURDAY**

**SIGNUP ON DCMGA.COM  
& VIEW A LIST OF GIVEAWAYS FOR  
THE LIVE EVENT**

Join us online for free  
talks and giveaways on  
Saturday, October 3

10:00 am - Dr. Hennen Cummings,  
Turf Tasks for North Texas

12:00 pm - Dee Nash, Beautiful and  
Productive Kitchen Gardens

1:30 pm - Toni Moorehead, Fall/Winter  
Tips & To-do's for North Central Texas  
Gardens

3:00 pm - Betsy Marsh, Gardens  
that Give Back: Lovely, Low-Water,  
Life-Giving Landscapes

**VIST DCMGA.COM TO SIGN UP AND FOR MORE INFORMATION**

DENTON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
**2020 Garden Tour**

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020

9 AM TO 4 PM

Four Del...  
Denton...ns

**Canceled**

...want to miss!  
...of four unique North  
...with Master Gardeners onsite to  
...education and information.

Two...include an optional Nature Walk guided by volunteers  
...from the Texas Master Naturalist - Elm Fork Chapter.

Closed-toe shoes are recommended.

Vendors of unique garden-related items at one location!

Early-Bird tickets are available Feb. 19th thru March 31st for \$10.

Regular ticket price of \$15 is effective April 1st thru May 8th.

At-Door tickets will be available on May 9th for \$20.

Go to [www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents](http://www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents)  
for tickets as well as property information and locations.

DCMGA thanks D&L Farm & Home for their support of  
the 2020 Garden Tour







### Mission Statement

Denton County Master Gardener Association educates and engages county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices that create sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities.

### Extension EO/EEO Statement

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

### 2020 Board of Directors

President	Kathryn Wells
Vice-President - Projects	Joanne Spurgin
Vice-President - Outreach	Kathy Rainey
Secretary	Katherine Woodward
Treasurer	Joe Beckett
Communications Dir. - Systems	Liz Moyer
Communications Dir. - Promotions	Treva McFadden
Education Director	Barbara Brown
Member-at-Large	Tammie Gurley
Past President	Pat Moyer
Extension Agent - Horticulture	Janet Laminack

### Social Media

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyMGA>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/DentonCountyMGA>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/@DentonCountyMGA>

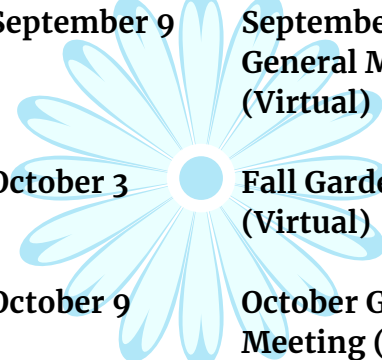
Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/DentonCountyMGA>

YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>

### Save the Date



September 9	September General Meeting (Virtual)
October 3	Fall Garden Fest (Virtual)
October 9	October General Meeting (Virtual)

### Contact Information

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Joseph A. Carroll Building  
401 W. Hickory Street  
Suite 112  
Denton TX 76201-9026

Office: 940.349.2883

Help Desk:

940.349.2892

[master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com)

Webmaster:

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Communications:

[dcmga.communications@gmail.com](mailto:dcmga.communications@gmail.com)

Website:

<https://dcmga.com>

### Content

**Submission deadline for the October edition of *The Root* is Saturday, September 15.** Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Editor Karen Gibson or Communications Director Liz Moyer at [dcmga.communications@gmail.com](mailto:dcmga.communications@gmail.com).

*All photos are courtesy of DCMGA's Creative Visual Arts (CVA) Team unless otherwise attributed.*