

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Happy March, Friends!

This month marks a welcome milestone; our monthly General Meeting and Program will be a hybrid event, held in person and onsite at Global Spheres Center while simultaneously and virtually live-streamed via Zoom. It will be the first in-person General Meeting in two years—the last time we gathered together outside of cyberspace was March 11th, 2020...mere days before pandemic protocols prohibited in-person gatherings.

As it's our first attempt at a hybrid meeting of this size; please tune in with understanding and grace! We hope that it will be a high-quality experience for those who gather face-to-face and for those who join in cyberspace.

For our General Meeting program, we're pleased to welcome Collin County Master Gardener and terrarium expert Marilee Crawford, who will present "Gardening Under Glass."

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<https://dcmga.com>

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Buds From The Board (Cont.)

Advance registration is required for our virtual participants, and, as always, our general meetings are free and open to the public.

Presidential Service pins will also be awarded at March's general meeting to honor and recognize our members who completed 100 or more hours of service in 2021.

For additional information about our March General Meeting and all of our upcoming Denton County MGA events, please visit our website. And, if you're interested in viewing replays of our educational programs and events, please visit our YouTube channel; we've recently added many playlist categories to help you find just the right topic of interest.

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you make my heart happy! Spring is upon us; let's get growing -- ready, set, March!

Kathryn



TOP GARDENING TIPS

March

- Plant cool season vegetables.
- Plant cool season flowering annuals.
- Prune winter damage from perennials & shrubs.
- Allow spring bulb foliage to die & dry before removal.
- Protect tender plants from late freezes.

#DCMGA #GROWWITHUS

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Janet's Corner

BY JANET LAMINACK, AGRILIFE EXTENSION HORTICULTURE AGENT, DENTON COUNTY

Think Year-Round

While we are on the cusp of spring, it's easy to observe seasonal variations in plants. When you are planning a landscape, garden, or just want to add a little more oomph, it's important to think year-round. I know how easy it is to get swept up in the spring with all the beautiful flower choices! But, let's take a step back and look at the total landscape. If we are talking about your home landscape and you don't have a high quality healthy tree on your property, you need to get one! A tree will add value to your home, but there may be restrictions or size limitations. We tend to overlook some great choices that make fabulous smaller trees like crape myrtles, vitex, Mexican plum, redbud, desert willow, or wax myrtles.



The next thing to consider, which I consider very boring and haven't paid much attention to are shrubs. Shrubs, or "bushes," persist when all our showy flowers disappear. They aren't the most exciting thing (to me) but I have grown to see the value in including them. You don't have to go with just boxwoods, although they are evergreen and survived Uri. Think about shrubs that lose their leaves but have berries in the fall, like possumhaw holly or American beautyberry. There are also shrubs that get cranked up early in the late winter with fruit or flowers, such as quince, forsythia, and viburnum. And there are many wonderful evergreen hollies such as yaupon or Burford. Some shrubs surprise us at odd times throughout the summer, like the cenizo (Texas sage) which is "ever-silver" or semi-evergreen. Legend has it that the cenizo blooms after a rain, which means it is quite the surprise.

Along with shrubs and trees, perennials stick around throughout the year and prefer to be planted in the fall. Perennials also have their time to shine. Start looking around now at trees, shrubs, and perennials that have color or winter interest and don't forget to incorporate them into your landscape even when they aren't showing off.

Additional Resources from DCMGA

- "Trees" ~ <https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/trees/>
- "More Information about specific trees"
<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/trees/#MoreInformation>
- "Shrub Species Selection"
<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/trees/#Shrubs>
- "Selecting shrubs to fit your landscape"
<https://dcmga.com/files/2021/04/Selecting-shrubs-to-fit-your-landscape.pdf>



Speakers Bureau

Desperately Seeking Speakers

BY PAT PAPE

Liz Moyer has a personal agenda. She wants more people to put native plants in their landscape, and she uses her volunteer position with the DCMGA Speakers Bureau to tout their benefits.

"I speak about the importance of native plants, and I disguise that as a speech on 'pollinator gardening' or something like that," said Liz, who fulfills 5-15 speaking assignments a year. "I speak to garden clubs, at library programs, to church groups and to organizations like Keep Flower Mound Beautiful. Whoever asks, I'll go."

Liz is one of almost 40 members of the Speakers Bureau who help educate the public on safe, sustainable horticultural practices and promote the development of healthy local landscapes. Speakers share their science-based knowledge and experience on topics ranging from flowers, vegetables, and trees to shrubs, herbs, and rainwater harvesting.

Currently, the Bureau is seeking more speakers to spread the word about gardening best practices.

"It's not as hard as you think," said Liz. "People ask you to come speak because they know very little about that particular topic, and you go to share info and knowledge. If someone asks a question and you don't know the answer, you can always say, 'I don't know but I'll get back with you.' Just make sure you do it."

American Beautyberry




Photo: Pam Williams
Source: wildflower.org

Coralberry




Photo: Liz Moyer
05-2021

Shrubs



Photo: Rodney Barton




Photo: Ray Matthews
Source: wildflower.org

Sustainable

- American Beautyberry
Callicarpa
- Coralberry
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus
- Texas Sage, Cenizo
Leucophyllum frutescens
- Autumn Sage
Salvia greggii
- Agarita
Berberis trifoliolata
- Dwarf Yaupon Holly
Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'
- Pavonia, Rock Rose
Pavonia lasiopetala
- Wax Myrtle
Morella cerifera (Myrica cerifera)
- Red Yucca
Hesperaloe parviflora
- Pale Yucca
Yucca pallida

From "Native in the Suburbs" Presentation

Charlotte Canion, a professional speaker and member of the National Speakers Bureau, gives about 60 talks a year, about half of them for DCMGA. "My favorite presentation is on container gardening, but I've spoken on everything from bats to bees," she said. "I love doing research, and I try to learn something new every day."

Speakers Bureau (Cont.)

Because people learn by either seeing, listening or touching, Charlotte often uses props in her presentations. She created a miniature keyhole garden from a candy gift box and a tiny square-foot garden that sits on a pedestal that she sometimes takes to her talks. However, crafting skills and PowerPoint experience aren't necessary for Speakers Bureau volunteers. And no one is required to do research or write a speech since many existing presentations are available in the Speaker Bureau library.

Carol Rowley, a speaker for 10 years, authored many of those presentations. "I give volunteer speakers the PowerPoint, and they can add their own information to it," she said.

Carol finds speech inspiration everywhere. Recently, she heard someone say, "I'm only going to have perennials, because they're so easy to care for." "I thought, 'oh...really?'" said Carol, who was then created a presentation dubbed "The Pleasures and Perils of Perennials." She also takes photos of and makes notes about gardens whenever she travels. Back at home, she uses those materials to create PowerPoints showcasing beautiful gardens in distant climes.

"If you need help with a PowerPoint, there are several of us who can help," she said. "And your presentation doesn't have to be electronic. You can use laminated photos that you pass around. You don't have to be a perfect speaker, but you do need to be enthusiastic about what you talk about. If you like the subject, others will like it too. You're sharing your knowledge, and it's fun."

According to Dee Payne, Speakers Bureau chair, the Bureau "is the most important function the Master Gardeners have. If we didn't have volunteer speakers, we wouldn't be educating the community, and that's the mission of our organization. In a typical year without Covid, we do 10 to 15 speeches a month. Fortunately, in 2021 we didn't have to turn down any request because many speakers made presentations on Zoom."

Liz enjoys volunteering for the Speakers Bureau and urges others to give it a try. "I hang out with great gardeners that know so much that I get overwhelmed," she said. "Then, I go on a speaking engagement and I realize 'Hey, I know a lot too.' Give it a try." 



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Charlotte Canion

Tiny Keyhole and Square Foot Garden Props

Meet Russ & Judy Allen

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

Shared passions bless Russ and Judy Allen - their family, faith, hard work, and gardening. Their passions have taken them from California to Colorado, Missouri, Oklahoma, and finally to Wise and Denton counties, Texas. Now, we at DCMGA are the blessed ones!

Russ and Judy grew up about 17 miles away from each other in small towns in California's Central Valley Region, although they didn't meet until they were in their thirties. Russ describes the Central Valley Region as "America's breadbasket." It is the most productive agricultural region in California and provides more than half of the fruits, vegetables, and nuts grown in the U.S. As kids, they both left school early to tend to the crops, pick cotton, and harvest potatoes. Russ was helping with his parents' agricultural equipment business at a young age, flying all over three western states to set up equipment auctions. Judy's father grew all sorts of vegetables and watermelons in a one-acre garden. Her mother grew roses. They both recall learning to drive early, out of necessity, driving tractors and farm trucks in the fields.



Judy & Russ Allen
DCMGA Classes 2020 & 2021

Just a small sampling of Russ & Judy's bountiful garden harvests.



Carrots



Onions



Beets

Meet Russ & Judy Allen (Cont.)

Working together in commercial real estate in California until 2003, they were too busy to do much gardening. Their faith took them to Colorado for one-and-a-half years, Missouri for eight years, and Oklahoma for two years. They helped establish congregations for new churches in each spot. They developed an appreciation for the mild seasonal weather and started gardening again in Missouri.

A desire to live closer to their daughter brought them to Alvord in north-central Wise County in 2013. Raising cattle, horses, raised vegetable beds, and lots of shade trees on the 60-acre ranch took them back to their small town agricultural roots. Downsizing to a smaller home and property was their next mission together. They built a home on one acre of their daughter and son-in-law's 20-acre property outside of Justin in west Denton County. Russ still helps out with the cattle now and then, and they are enjoying being even closer to their daughter in a rural setting.



Roses



Blackberries



Seed Starting

Their current landscape started as a blank slate in a cow pasture. Russ and Judy have been super busy planting 60 trees, 50 shrubs, setting up 11 raised vegetable beds, 3 berry beds, and an asparagus bed. They grow and process cherry, Roma, and San Marzano tomatoes, Habanada and banana peppers, carrots, potatoes, beets, broccoli, kale, and spinach. Organic gardening and healthy eating are important to them, an easily achieved goal with their ample harvests.

The Allens learned about the Texas Master Gardener program from the Wise County AgriLife Extension office. Unfortunately, Wise County doesn't have a Master Gardener program, so they made a vow to apply for the Denton County Master Gardener program as soon as they moved to Denton County. Judy earned her certification in 2020, and Russ earned his certification in 2021. Between them, they have volunteered for the Plant Sale, Pass-Along-Plant Sale, Garden Tour,

Meet Russ & Judy Allen (Cont.)



**Processing Roma &
San Marzano tomatoes**




Raised Vegetable Beds

Help Desk, Nominating Committee, and Project Review Committee. Russ was an intern Garden Tour captain in 2021, and they both currently serve as mentors for the 2022 intern class.

And, the work on their new home isn't quite done. They're finishing up building a greenhouse and barn and planning to build a chicken coop. The quote by Lucille Ball comes to mind, "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. The more things you do, the more you can do."

They enjoy listening to gardening podcasts together. Their favorites include "Growing a Greener World®" by Joe Lamp'l, "You Bet Your Garden" by Mike McGrath, "The Beginner's Garden" by Jill McSheehy, and "The Dirt Doctor" by Howard Garrett. The "Roots and Refuge" YouTube channel is also a favorite.

Russ and Judy's passions and energy are inspiring, don't you think? I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to know them a little better. I hope you have a chance to meet or work with them during a DCMGA program soon. 

*Denton County Master Gardener
YouTube Channel*

Click on "Videos" and check out our new presentations!
And don't forget to subscribe!

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

2022 Garden Tour Preview

BY GAY CAMPBELL

Please plan to join us for the 2022 Garden Tour, May 7, 9 am to 4 pm.

Self-guided tours of four beautiful Denton County properties will inspire and delight you.

Master Gardener docents will be onsite to help you learn about all the beautiful plants and gardening techniques. Check dcmga.com on February 9th for ticket information

BarB Legacy Farm & Gardens

Located just minutes away from Denton, Texas, the Bar B Legacy Farm and Gardens is the only working farm featured in the 2022 DCMGA Spring Garden Tour. The 22-acre property is positioned in the natural Cross Timbers area of the county and boasts majestic post oaks and native Texas trees. It includes a circular drive, a large two-story home and two barns, one for animals and the other for tractors and large farm equipment. Chickens, Guinea fowl, potbellied pigs, cattle, cats and a dog are some of the residents that call the Bar B home. Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Great Horned Owls, and Eastern Bluebirds are frequent visitors.

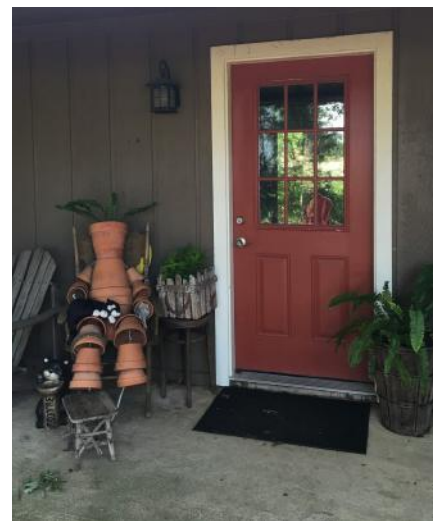
Adjacent to the home is a cozy guest cottage that doubles as a craft and flower arranging station. One of the farm's newest features is a "she-shed," perfect for quiet reflection as well as repotting and storing cold-sensitive plants during the winter. A dry creek bed meanders behind the house and functions as a barrier between the backyard filled with shade-loving plants and acres of natural woods. Farther away from the home and therefore not included on the tour, is a stock tank filled with catfish. During hay-baling season, picturesque fields of golden hay are baled by the "Gentleman Farmer" who lives here. He not only bales hay for his own use but that of neighboring farms, as well.



Guest Cottage



Monarda



Cottage Entrance

BarB Legacy Farm & Gardens (Cont.)

Sections of the large front yard receive full sun and in one such area is the Red, White and Blue bed. Located in the middle of the circular drive, it serves as the farm's focal point and boasts a tall flagpole, blue bottle tree, red hibiscus, white Shasta daisies, and many other thematically-colored flowers. A plaque proudly commemorates the homeowner's military service in Viet Nam.

The "Legacy" in the farm's title is inspired by the many flower beds that pay tribute to family and the places they hold dear. Some beds are an homage to the owners' parents while others feature vignettes celebrating family ancestry. The homeowners' appreciation of history is clearly evidenced by the many creative uses of antiques displayed throughout the gardens.



Red, White and Blue

A cut-flower bed near the house typically overflows with zinnias and other sun-loving annuals in late spring and throughout the summer. In front of the "she-shed" is a recently designated area for vegetable gardening with several raised, lasagna-style beds. The new, taller beds make ergonomic gardening possible and growing vegetables much easier.



Annuals Flower Bed



A Few BarB "Residents"

Through the years, great planning and effort has gone into turning The Bar B Legacy Farm and Gardens into a well-functioning farm. Love and creativity has turned it into a unique and beautiful home. But don't just take our word for it. Please drop by and see for yourself. The owners will be excited to show you around! 🌸

Plant of the Month

Milkweed – The Good and the Problematic

BY LIZ MOYER

Adding milkweed, *Asclepias*, to home gardens is a great way to do your part for the survival of the beautiful monarch butterfly. Most of us know that monarchs lay their eggs only on milkweed, and that the resulting caterpillars eat only milkweed until they move into their chrysalis. Additionally, this part of their lifecycle happens right here in north central Texas every spring. We are the first stop on the monarch's migratory flight north for the summer.

Monarchs are suffering terribly as the availability of native milkweed diminishes and habitats are wiped out by development. Habitat loss has become such a problem that all the states along I-35 from Texas to the Canadian border have agreed to plant milkweed along the monarch flyway and develop "waystations" for these beauties. You can see these plantings at both the Hill County and Bell County rest areas on I-35 in Texas now.



Photos Courtesy of DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

Antelope Horn Milkweed
lends an otherworldly look.

The Good Milkweed

Selecting milkweed for your home garden is really not hard. Simply be sure you know where you want to plant, how much and when the sun shines there and whether or not you are going to water it. The milkweed species native to our area do not require watering once they get their root systems developed, about a year after planting. As indicated by its name, Swamp Milkweed needs to live in a wet area. Once you know the habitat your new monarch nursery is going to provide and have amended the soil if necessary, it's time to go plant shopping!

There are eight milkweed species native to Denton County:

- Antelope Horn, *Asclepias asperula*
- Butterfly Milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
- Green antelope Horn, *Asclepias viridis*
- Wand, *Asclepias viridiflora*
- Whorled, *Asclepias verticillate*
- Swamp or Pink Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*
- Hierba de Zizotes, *Asclepias oenotheroides*
- Slim, *Asclepias linearis*

Milkweed (Cont.)

Antelope horn, *Asclepias Asperula*, is a really fun milkweed and relatively easy to grow. The blooms look like something from another planet and it has been very popular with the monarchs who stop off in our yard for egg-laying.

Butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, is also easy to grow and very popular. In 2021, after the deep freeze, our antelope horn was a little slow coming back. The monarchs were right on time, and when they found no antelope horn milkweed in our gardens, they moved right over to the *tuberosa*.

These two are the most common species found in nurseries in our area. We can often find the others at nurseries participating in the Native Plant Society of Texas NICE program in which nurseries work together with the society for the preservation and propagation of native plants. A list of these nurseries is available at <https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/nice/operation-nice-participating-nurseries/>.

The Problematic Milkweed

When shopping, we must be very careful to check the botanical name of the plant we are considering. **Tropical milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica***, is often sold in this area under the common name Butterfly Milkweed or Butterfly weed. It also has orange flowers, although not generally as showy as *Tuberosa*, so it is easy to get confused. Tropical milkweed is not a good choice for this area because it does not die back as early as native milkweeds do. Consequently, monarchs on their way south to Mexico for the winter may just decide to stay here and continue to reproduce. That is a problem for several reasons:

- Monarchs may carry the spores of a virus called *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE for us non-scientists). Large concentrations of monarchs who do not migrate result in higher concentrations of these spores on the milkweed leaves and consequently higher infection rates in the caterpillars eating the milkweed. Infection with this virus results in either an early death of the butterfly or a weakened condition.
- Caterpillars emerging in the fall and winter are likely to face food shortages as tropical milkweed will be the only milkweed available; and
- A freeze at almost any point in their lifecycle will be the kiss of death.

If you already have a bed of tropical milkweed, the best thing is to replace it with *Tuberosa* or one of the other native milkweeds listed above. If you cannot do that, you can cut the tropical milkweed back to a height of 6" or less in October and keep it cut back until after our last freeze.

Milkweed (Cont.)

Supporting Your Monarchs

Do not be discouraged if you don't see monarch caterpillars the first year or two after planting your milkweed. They have to find it first, and once they do, they will return each year – especially if you also provide for their other habitat needs:

- Leave some leaf litter and dead branches in your gardens to provide shelter from the wind and rain
- Include nectar sources for both spring and fall – for a list, see this list: <https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/files/2020/03/1-Plant-List-For-Butterfly-Garden.pdf>
- Include some sources of water in your garden, a butterfly puddler or rocks that will hold a little water

Remember, you planted that milkweed as food source for the caterpillars. When the plants look ragged and eaten down, don't panic. In two or three weeks they will have restored their foliage and begin blooming again.



Butterfly Milkweed

Asclepias tuberosa, feeds monarch caterpillars.



Butterfly Milkweed

provides a nectar source for bees and a pop of color to your garden.

When the caterpillars are gone from your milkweed, carefully look around, on fences, buildings, other items nearby and see if you can spot a chrysalis. It is fun to watch the butterfly mature inside, but don't touch it or "help" it emerge. That struggle helps the monarch build its strength and is essential to its survival in the migratory environment.

Milkweed (Cont.)

Resources

Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas

"Native Plant List - Butterfly Garden"

<https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/plant-lists/>

"NICE Native Plant Program, List of Participating Nurseries"

<https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/nice/operation-nice-participating-nurseries/>

Monarch Conservation Toolbox

"Monarch Waystations in TxDoT Rest Areas fact sheet"

<http://www.namonarchs.org/pilot-projects/monarch-waystations-along-txdot-rest-areas/>

Monarch Joint Venture

"Potential risks of growing exotic (non-native) Milkweed for monarchs fact sheet "

https://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/OE_fact_sheet_Updated.pdf

MonarchWatch.org

"Monarch Waystation Program fact sheet"

<https://monarchwatch.org/waystations/>



Join Denton County MGA for our
hybrid (in person and virtual)
March General Meeting &
Program.

We're pleased to welcome
Collin County Master Gardener
Marilee Crawford, who will present
"Gardening Under Glass."

Advance registration is required
only for virtual participants live-
streaming via Zoom.

In-person participants will meet in
the Solomon's Porch building at
Global Spheres Center (7801 S
Interstate 35, Corinth, TX).

As always, our General Meeting programs are
open to the public and free of charge.

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
MARCH 2022
In Person / Hybrid
GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM
"Gardening Under Glass"
PRESENTED BY MARILEE CRAWFORD
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2022
10:00 AM - 12 NOON
GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER
7801 S INTERSTATE 35, CORINTH, TX 76208
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The Water Issue in Texas

BY LEE ANN YATES

Spring is not a time of year the Denton County residents worry about water – we usually get a good bit of rain then. However, rain has come to us over the last few years in either drips or torrents. They are both problems and should lead us to think about conserving water – even during those torrents. Perhaps you could think of it more proactively – try "water efficiency." Using the water we have efficiently, so we don't waste that ever-more-precious resource, makes good sense, right? Allow me to lay some information on you, baby!

Texans Water Usage

The Earth has the same amount of water now it has always had – the water moves from place to place over time. The Sahara Desert and the Outback of Australia used to be giant water reservoirs – now gone underground. Some Pacific islands used to be much larger and are getting smaller every year – losing ground to rising seawater.

According to the latest state water report, Texans use a lot of water – to the tune of more than 17.5 million acre-feet in 2020. That's the amount of water it takes to cover 17.5 million acres with water one foot deep or 325,851 gallons. Imagine the size of that bucket, dear Liza, dear Liza! We must use it as efficiently as possible and keep it as clean as possible. One person's actions seem insignificant; however, many individuals carefully managing their individual water use can quickly add up to significant change.

In 2015, Texas Water Utilities reported that agricultural and landscape irrigation comprised at least 59% of our total water use, while municipalities consumed 28% of the total water usage. The next largest portion of water users in the state was manufacturing, using 7%. That, my friends, is a huge difference!

2020 State Water Plan

The 2020 State Water Plan (fascinating stuff!) was recently released online, and it projects a statewide, across-the-board demand increase of just under two million acre-feet by 2070. During the same period, municipal water demands are projected to almost double while existing supplies are expected to stay about the same, increasing potential shortages every decade.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

The Water Issue in Texas (Cont.)

For Denton County, the municipal usage and supply table displays a small shortage reflecting what we have experienced over the last few years. However, by 2030 and beyond, the projected usage rate grows quickly, while the supply rate remains the same, increasing shortages over time.

There are no new plans to increase supply through new reservoir building. They are costly to build and maintain (think taxes and bonds), and new ones take years to become viable reservoirs. That translates to a need for using and reusing our water supply as cleanly, efficiently, and responsibly as possible.

Strategies for increasing water use efficiency

As groundwater becomes increasingly unusable or scarce and our urban population keeps exploding, it is critical to keep our surface and lake water as clean as possible to reduce the cost of our drinking water – which is also our irrigation water. As gardeners, we can help keep that water as clean as possible on and below the surface and use it in the most efficient ways so we do not waste its benefits.

Municipal leaders and water managers in the Texas region with the most critical water shortages, the Rio Grande Basin, offer great suggestions for what we can do now and in the future. They created a list of the most preferred and most feasible strategies to educate the public on increasing water use efficiency.

First on the list was "encouraging drought-tolerant landscapes" (DCMGA talks about this ALL the time), while the last item was "restricting outdoor water use." In Denton County, where we have not yet reached critical shortages, the County is increasing its use of drought-tolerant and native or adapted plants in public plantings. Couldn't we do the same at home?

The list also suggested public education campaigns about conducting residential water audits to check for leakage, using greywater (water from dishwashers, bathtubs, washing machines) for landscape watering, requiring drip irrigation as appropriate, and reusing treated wastewater.



Photo Courtesy Gail Langellotto, License CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Drip Irrigation System

The Water Issue in Texas (Cont.)

Officials also created a list of least preferred and least feasible actions, including offering rebates, restricting any landscapes and plantings, and raising water prices in hopes of lowering use. Isn't that interesting?! So – what can we gardeners do to keep surface water cleaner and use it as efficiently as possible?

The importance of a soil test

Doing a soil test is the first thing to do when starting to garden, developing a new bed, and keeping track of what is going on with your soil every few years. I know we are talking water, but this matters too – stick with me! The report you get will tell you which nutrients and amendments your garden needs, avoiding wasting time and money on unnecessary nutrients and chemicals that your soil doesn't need, can't absorb, and will only pollute the water run-off during the next rain or watering cycle. Soil testing is helpful whether you are building one flowerbed in your yard or planting acres of land. Find a link to the Texas A&M lab to have your soil tested below (see Resources).

Being mindful

We must become ever more mindful of the proper use and potential overuse of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers in our home landscapes. Reading the labels every time you use one of these products, using the correct product for the job, in the proper measures, and being more thoughtful in our plant selections are a few ways we can use these products with maximum efficiency. This is NOT a situation of "if a little is good, more is better!"

Realize that most commercial pesticides kill good bugs as well as bad bugs. Identify the pest causing a problem and look for a pesticide targeted to that bug. Certified nursery staff can help with this task, as can our Master Gardener Help Desk. Use only the amount you need. If there are only a few can you pick them off or flick them into a bowl of soapy water (my personal favorite – take that, squash bugs!).

Encourage good bugs in your yard. Yes, there is such a thing, and you can even buy some beneficial insects on the interwebs! Proper plant selection will help encourage those good predator bugs like praying mantises and lady beetles. The right plants and fewer pesticides will allow pollinators – bees, butterflies, moths, etc. – to do their much-needed work, and they will add to your delight in your garden, all while keeping the water supply that much cleaner.

Herbicides, or weed-killers, must be used with the same care as pesticides. Identify the weed, then use the proper herbicide in the appropriate amount to get rid of it. Weed-and-Feed products aren't beneficial since the grass does not need fertilizing at the same time as the weeds need killing. So the fertilizer washes away – along with your cash! As much as I hate to

The Water Issue in Texas (Cont.)

say it, sometimes the best solution is some meditation time in the garden spent in weed destruction. I know it seems counter-intuitive, but it can be soulfully satisfying to rip those suckers, roots and all, out of the ground and dispose of them in the bin. It makes trash day something to look forward to.

When pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, even organic ones, are used without care and wastefully, all excess runs into storm drains and the water system with the next watering or rain event, polluting surface water. Removing those pollutants from our drinking water is an increasingly expensive process.

Choosing native plants

We can encourage our municipalities, landscape companies, neighbors, and other stakeholders to reduce their use of and take great care with pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Choosing native plants for our public and personal landscapes is a healthy way to decrease the need for many of these products without impacting the beauty of our gardens.



Native Coneflowers

Considering our County's population boom, controlling soil erosion on construction sites is important in keeping local waterways clean. Sediment from soil erosion is making our lakes shallower and dredging is expensive. Soil erosion can happen at a twenty times greater than normal land use on bare construction sites. Many developers are using techniques and strategies to alleviate this problem, but keep a lookout for those who don't or need to increase their actions. Then, contact developers and municipal offices about solving erosion problems.

Using a commercial carwash that treats or recycles its wastewater will go a long way in keeping grease, road residue, and detergents out of the water systems. When washing your car at home, use a detergent that breaks down quickly and pull your car into the yard so that water will infiltrate the ground where it can go through a slow natural cleaning process and help recharge groundwater.

Automotive fluids poured into storm drains has the same result as dumping them directly into a lake! Cities and towns have collection sites and dedicated collection days for hazardous waste – discover when yours is.

The Water Issue in Texas (Cont.)

If you have one, make sure your septic system functions properly. You don't want that leaking bacteria or overabundant nutrients into your lawn or the groundwater.

Pet waste

One pollutant we may not recognize as such is pet waste. Think about it – all over backyards, dog parks, walking trails, litter boxes, so much poop out there! Pet waste can be a significant source of bacteria and excess nutrients getting washed into local surface and ground waters by rains or sprinkler systems. Bag the poo! Its place is in the trash, not the yard, not the compost pile. Consider flushing it (unbagged and not litter, of course) for the best disposal method. The primary goal is to keep unwanted nutrients and pathogens out of stormwater drains and nearby surface water.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

For more ideas concerning personal water use and efficiencies, read Part 2, Irrigation.

Our gardening workload increases in Spring, but I urge you to take a little time to consider your chemical use and water efficiency. What adjustments can you make now to become more efficient, save water and money, and beautify your space? Happy Gardening, and remember to Love your Mother – Earth!

Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Water

"Rio Grande decision makers rank water conservation strategies"

<https://texaswater.tamu.edu/conservation/ranking-water-conservation-strategies.html>

"Best Management practices"

<https://texaswater.tamu.edu/stormwater/best-management-practices.html>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Soil Testing forms and information

<https://soiltesting.tamu.edu/webpages/forms.html>

Texas State Water Plan, <https://texasstatewaterplan.org/statewide>

Texas Water Development Board, "Water Use of Texas water Utilities"

[https://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/special legislative reports/doc/2014_WaterUseOfTexasWaterUtilities.pdf](https://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/special_legislative_reports/doc/2014_WaterUseOfTexasWaterUtilities.pdf)

Irrigation

BY LEE ANN YATES

Here it is early Spring, and gardeners have seed catalogs, plant selections, and visions of loveliness dancing in our heads. We never want to talk about the un-pretty, unglamorous jobs, but they are so necessary for that loveliness to happen. Early Spring is the perfect time to think about the hot, the dry, the watering chore. Irrigation is a basic necessity, yet many put it on the back burner when planning gardens. So let's put aside a little time to think about irrigation now and make a plan to lessen the burden. Then we can concentrate on those seedlings in a bit.

What does "irrigation" mean exactly? It is the application of controlled amounts of water to land to assist in producing crops, landscape plants, and lawns. AKA "watering." Some of us love to do it, some of us hate to do it, some of us forget to do it (I'm guilty of this!), and some of us do it too much! How do we know what to do?! When to water?! How much is enough?! How much is too much?! Kermit waving his little froggy hands over his head in a panic at the beginning of every Muppet Show, comes to mind.

Watering our landscapes properly can keep plants, trees, shrubs, and lawns healthier and reduce the need for pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers by not stressing plants by over-or under-watering. Being aware of what is carried with the water – into the curb, drains, street, or soaking into the ground – matters. Ensure that you are not overwatering your lawn to cut down on run-off.

How much is enough?

Generally, one inch of water per week is all that is needed to keep your landscape healthy and beautiful, except in the driest times. Perform a catchment test in your landscape by placing small cans around your yard and flower beds. Small cat food or tuna cans work well, but you can also purchase official catchment cups. Be sure to use clean cans – you don't want every cat in your neighborhood caught in your sprinklers! Run your sprinklers until one inch of water collects in the cans, notice the run time, and you have the information you need to lay an inch of water on your landscape once a week.

In the driest times (no rain for a couple of weeks), run sprinklers that length of time twice a week. Use the cycle-and-soak method within that time period by running your sprinklers for shorter periods over two or three cycles. Allow the water to soak in between cycles for a deep watering to soothe your plants' thirst.

Using a timer to control the amount of water going to different landscape areas saves effort and water. Find the link in *Resources* to get directions for doing a "catch can test" to measure your output.

Irrigation (Cont.)

Hydro-Zoning

Locating plants with similar water needs together, a practice known as hydro-zoning, makes it easier to use your sprinkler system efficiently. It may seem obvious that you shouldn't put tropical plants with cacti, but it isn't so easy to make those decisions most of the time. Read the plant tags carefully for water and light requirements and incorporate that information in your choices on plant locations.

Make sure all of your sprinkler heads work properly. Maintaining and auditing in-ground sprinkler systems once each year will increase watering efficiency. It would be best to use a

Certified Irrigation Specialist to do this.

Nobody needs Old Faithful going off regularly in your yard! Consider replacing older sprinkler heads with more efficient, targeted heads. That efficiency can translate into savings on your water bill! Cha-ching!!

Switch some or all of the in-ground sprinklers to drip irrigation, which delivers water extremely efficiently to the roots of the plants where it is most needed.

Drip irrigation reduces the likelihood of some diseases and pests on too-wet or too-dry plants and grasses, reduces water loss due to evaporation, and can be easily adapted to patio pots and hidden under plant leaves and mulch. Drip irrigation is a relatively easy DIY project, which saves even more moolah – which you can spend on even more plants!! It's a win-win!



Photo Courtesy Daniel R. Bloom, License CC BY-SA 2.0

Broken Sprinkler Head



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Janie Cindric

Rain Barrel

Collecting rainwater

Collecting or harvesting rainwater around your property in rain barrels or cisterns offers many benefits for your landscape. Rainwater provides pH-neutral, salt-free water, perfect for plants' root growth. You can buy rain barrels from big box stores or the internet, but building them yourself is a relatively easy and affordable DIY project.

Irrigation (Cont.)

Collecting rainwater saves you money, reduces demand on the municipal water system in drier times, and efficiently uses natural resources. Instead of building an ark, rain barrels or large cisterns can reduce the damage caused by periodic flooding after those heavy rains we sometimes get, thereby slowing erosion and run-off contamination from chemicals to surface water.

HOAs once prohibited the use of rain barrels, but no more. They can restrict where you place the barrels, but usually, that means having them at the back of your house and not in your front-facing landscape. You would be amazed at how much water you can save from the roof of your home! (Hint: up to 40,000 gallons from a 2000 square foot roof) There is a link below with rainwater harvesting information, and there are many .videos on YouTube showing how to make your rain barrel.

Spend some time NOW re-thinking your landscape irrigation, get problems fixed, re-evaluate, and start cleaning tuna cans and building rain barrels! You will reap the rewards this summer when it's too hot to do more than run through your sprinklers – you know you will want to!

Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Irrigation System Auditing"

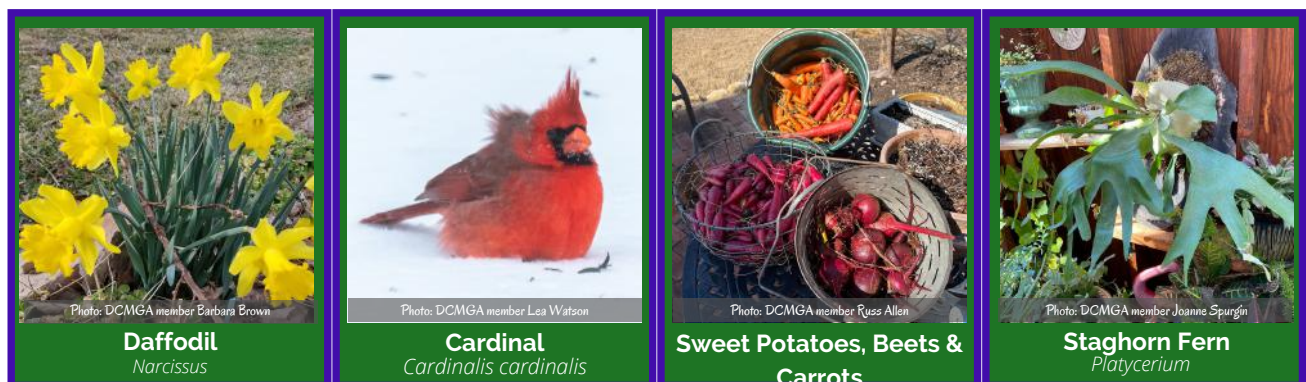
<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/audit.pdf>

"10 Ways to make your landscape Earth-Kind"

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2015/02/eh_10ways2earthkind.pdf



Spotted in Members' Gardens




Volunteer Opportunity Fair Recap

BY TOM O'BRIEN

The 2022 DCMGA Volunteer Opportunity Fair was held on Wednesday February 9th, 2022, at Global Spheres. The Volunteer Opportunity Fair is held to introduce Interns to DCMGA Projects and events where they can earn Volunteer Hours; Interns are required to complete 75 hours of Volunteer Service to Graduate.

This was the first VOF held in-person since 2020 due to the Pandemic and our first in-person event of 2022. We had 30 tables set up for Projects, Events and Groups. The Project Managers set up a variety of displays, books, plants, and tools and were given the opportunity to explain their projects and what type of help they need to complete them; and what the Intern would potentially learn for working on the project.

The Class of 2022 Interns were invited as well as the 2021 Interns who Graduated in January at Robinson Ranch. We had an excellent turnout, in all 127 people attended. The DCMGA favorite breakfast Tacos were served (we are a group that appreciates good food). The feedback from the Project Managers was very positive, there were a lot of Volunteer sign-ups, and everyone was very pleased to meet in person, learn, communicate, and gather to say hello to old friends and the opportunity to meet the new Interns. All-in-all the 2022 Volunteer Opportunity Fair was a SUCCESS!!

Thanks to all who attended, the hospitality Team who served the food , the door greeters and the Members for breaking down the room in a very timely manner. 



A Few of Our Favorite Reads

Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening by Louise Riotte. Storey Publishing, LLC; 2nd Rev and Updated ed. edition (January 2, 1998)

Epic Tomatoes: How to Select and Grow the Best Varieties of All Time by Craig LeHoullier. Storey Publishing, LLC (December 30, 2014)

Bringing Nature Home, Updated & Expanded by Doug Tallamy. Timber, Paperback(2009) (January 1, 2009).

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

DCMGA Welcomes the Class of 2022

BY KIM WOOTTON, CLASS PLANNING CHAIRPERSON

On January 25, DCMGA welcomed the Class of 2022. Although we originally planned to meet in person this year, the first two classes became contributions to the list of "Covid Casualties" that have accumulated since March 2020.

However, on February 8, despite all obstacles, we held class in person! Granted, our instructor had to present on Zoom due to Covid-19, but it turns out that a class of Interns all in one room with the instructor on a big screen was a bazillion times better than any virtual meeting we've had sitting by ourselves from in our living rooms.

In attendance were all 45 interns, socially distanced at their tables with their mentors sitting in small groups at the back. The instructor, Brad Voss, was phenomenal, the day was sunny and bright and the Global Spheres gardens welcomed the first group of DCMGA interns in over a year. All in all, it was a rewarding first day back.

On behalf of the 2022 Class Administrators, Barbara Beane, Melissa Migis, and Kim Wootton, we want to thank the over 100 Master Gardener veterans who helped make the return to class happen. Because of your efforts, the next generation of Denton County Master Gardeners has a bright future with us.

Class of 2022, welcome! We can't wait to see the great things you're going to accomplish!



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Kim Wootton

Pass-Along Marking

BY LIZ MOYER

Avoid Plant Sale Prep Horror!

We've all been there. It's time to pot up pass-alongs for the Plant Sale, but:

1. We can't remember which plants were outgrowing their locations and need to be thinned and/or dug around the margins (edges)
2. The ones we think probably were candidates are still too small to be sure
3. We can't remember the names of the plants, and they are too small for ID

Oh, the horror!



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

Flag Marker



Knife Marker

Act now! Grab a permanent felt tip pen and a bunch of plastic knives or utility marking flags and get out there. Mark your plants now for digging in early March. It's a good idea to make yourself a diagram or some notes when you mark them. Check your markers periodically throughout the winter to be sure they are still legible and to remind yourself where they are ...

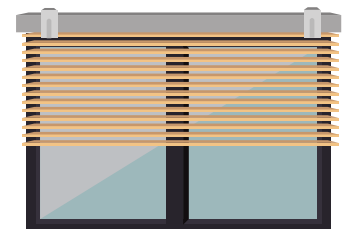
Another advantage: utility flags and plastic knives come in a variety of colors and can really add a pop to your winter landscape!



Mini-Blinds Wanted

Do you have some used mini-blinds that are destined for the trash? Did your neighbor set out mini-blinds for trash pick-up when they moved out?

The Plant Sale Committee can use any and all mini-blinds for Plant Sale ID stakes. If you have some to donate, contact Bob Bender through VMS.





Online (& In-Person) 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.

.....



Denton County Master Gardener Association YouTube Playlists

Seasonal Tasks & Tips

Permaculture

Flower Arranging

Other Gardening Topics

Wildlife Habitat Gardening

Waterwise Gardening

Turf Care

Tree Care

Shade Plants

Herbs & Vegetables

Pollinators

Organic Gardening

Landscaping

Houseplants

Roses

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

Tarrant Regional Water District & Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Toni Moorehead "Tough Texas Plants"

Part 1: <https://youtu.be/GPkDJtkn-Jc>

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/3wwDY38VVLg>

Part 3: <https://youtu.be/kZKXOiexJMw>

The Bee Short Course – Ohio State University

"Building wild bee conservation skills together"

<https://u.osu.edu/beecourse/>



DCMGA General Meeting Presentation

March 9, 2022. 10:00 am to Noon

Open To The Public

"Gardening Under Glass" presented by Marilee Crawford.

Meeting location: Global Spheres Center, 7801 S Interstate 35, Corinth, TX

You may also join virtually via Zoom. Advance registration required for virtual attendance.

To Register:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvfu6grDkjHNN6Pc9qi4zfEjCOWM4hF387>

Tuesdays with Texas Master Naturalists

On the Second Tuesday of each month at the noon hour (12PM Central Standard Time), the TMN State Office will offer an hour-long virtual advanced training event. These will be recorded each month and shared to the website by the following day of each month. Here's a link to one YouTube video: A Presentation by Doug Tallamy – "Nature's Best Hope"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY4aV5hqkxY>



Rooted In

"Sprinkler Systems 101" – Virtual Event (Free)

March 2, 2022 – 6pm – 7:30pm

RSVP / Register:

<https://rootedin.com/event/sprinkler-systems-101-3/>

Check out RootedIn for both in person & virtual events!

Online (& In-Person) Education Opportunities (Cont.)

AgriLife Online Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Most, but not all, are free.)

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

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/

Tending Nature, Native Plants and Every Gardener's Role in Fostering Biodiversity – Ohio State University

This 6-session webinar series focuses on the ecological roles of native plants and some of the creatures that depend on them. Click to view the 1-hour webinar recordings:

<https://u.osu.edu/6plus/recordings/>

Metroplex Tamil Sangam Gardening – "Perennial Gardening in North Texas" By "Sharrie & Rick Ely"

Presentation by DCMGA Member Sharrie Ely

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF-BMdAaoqM>



Home Grown Lecture Series from Harris County Master Gardeners

Join us for our Free, 30-minute, bi-weekly ONLINE on Thursdays at 10 AM Central time. Must register through Eventbrite to get the webinar link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/home-grown-lecture-series-2022-tickets-221010808277>

March 3, 2022 – Tomatoes on the Patio – Brandi Keller, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent – Horticulture

April 7, 2022 – Starting Plants from Cuttings – Paul Winski, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent – Commercial Horticulture

Gardening 101 + Virtual Learning Series

Aggie Horticulture

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Texas AgriLife posts great videos to the Aggie Horticulture Facebook. There are over 50 presentations here. View them at:

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

Citrus Varieties: Gardening on the Gulf Coast

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Stephen Brueggerhoff, Extension Agent – Horticulture

<https://youtu.be/wSIRjQJnxhE>

DCMGA Members

Plan Your Week emailed each Friday has the most current Online CE Opportunities.

See our [Member Handbook](#) for approved CE sources and guidelines. Note that members may claim up to 3 hours of annual discretionary education; veteran members with 10+ years of service may claim up to 6 hours.

**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

Q: I've noticed that many plants I want to have in my garden require good drainage. What does that mean, and how do I find out if my soil has good drainage?

A: That's an excellent question! Sometimes it's easy to tell if there are drainage issues in our landscape because of ponding water. However, understanding the drainage properties of your garden's soil is best done with a simple soil percolation test. It's also important to learn what nutrients your soil may need through soil analysis.

The soil is the source for all the elements plants need to grow: nutrients, organic matter, air, and water. Healthy soil is also the foundation of a water-efficient landscape, particularly in North Texas, where our soils are almost always poorly draining sticky clay. Soil that doesn't drain well can cause your plants' roots health problems such as root diseases, inability to take in nutrients, root system decay, and plant death. Soil that doesn't hold water adequately also causes plant health issues from drought stress, possible salt build-up in the soil, and certainly requires more irrigation.

Soil texture describes the mix of the type of soil particle sizes – Clay (the smallest), silt (next largest), and sand (largest). Clay and silt soils have the highest water holding capacity, and sand has the lowest.

Denton County has three soil regions with these types of soil textures:

- Blackland Prairie – mostly dark black to light, grey clayey soils
- Eastern Cross Timbers – mostly sandy loam
- Grand Prairie – a mix of clayey, limestone, and silty loams

There may be multiple types of soil textures in your landscape.

Soil Percolation Test

Soil percolation rate indicates how quickly water moves through the soil into the root zone of plants. A simple test can be done to assess the drainage properties of your soil.

Materials Needed

- Shovel or spade
- Water and a bucket or container
- A watch or clock



Steps

1. Dig a hole 6 to 8 inches wide and 2 feet deep. Tip: Be sure to know where the utility lines are before digging.
2. Fill the hole full of water and make a note of the time.
3. Put a yardstick in the hole every 15 minutes to measure the amount of water drained from the hole in inches. Make a note of the measurements.
4. Fill the hole a second time and make a note of the time.
5. Repeat Step 3 and note how long it takes for the water to drain again.

Interpret the Test Results

Look at the amount of time it took for the hole to drain completely in steps 3 and 5:

- Less than 15 minutes = Excessive drainage and poor water holding capacity
- 15 to 30 minutes = Adequate drainage and water holding capacity
- 30 minutes or more = Poor drainage and excess water holding capacity

Options to Improve Soil Drainage or Water Holding Capacity

Amendments can be added to your soil to improve how it handles water.

Excessive drainage/poor water holding capacity Add 3" of finished compost and work it into the soil 6 to 10 inches with a garden fork or tiller. Finished compost has the color and texture of chocolate cake and doesn't have any recognizable plant debris in it, such as sticks, twigs, or food particles. Apply a 3-inch layer of organic mulch (bark mulch, pine straw, etc.) in the root zone of

the plants, leaving a 2-inch gap from the plant stem or trunk to hold moisture in.

Poor drainage/excess water holding capacity Add 3" of finished compost or expanded shale and work it into the soil 6 to 10 inches. Shale is crushed and kiln-fired to make expanded shale. It holds 40% of its weight in water doesn't break down like compost so that it can be added to the soil only once.

Adding 3 inches of finished compost to your soil, even when the soil's drainage properties are good, always benefits the health of the soil and plants. Gently work the compost into the soil around the plants' root zone 3 to 4 inches.

Get a Soil Test Done

Over time the quality of your soil changes. A soil test can identify nutrient deficiencies, acidity or alkalinity, amount of organic matter, and soil texture. Caring for your soil

by identifying what is lacking and adding amendments is key to growing healthy plants year after year. Of course, the soil test cannot identify issues with the amount of sunlight, pests, or drainage issues in your garden.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Laboratory offers a soil testing service for a nominal fee. The lab sends the result to you (mail or email), including which nutrients are needed and how much to apply. Use this link to obtain the Urban and Homeowner soil test form, which includes instructions for collecting samples, payment, and mailing:

<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/files/urbansoil.pdf>.

Taking these steps to understand your soil's drainage properties and the nutrients it needs will help you grow a healthy and beautiful garden. 🌸

Sources and Resources

"Improving Landscape Soils," Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/soilimprovement.pdf>

"Percolation Test," University of Michigan, http://natureforcities.snre.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/nature_city/soils/getting_to_know_your_soil_exp3.pdf

"Soil Testing," Denton County Master Gardener Association, <https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/community-gardening/soil-testing/>

LATE WINTER PREP FOR YOUR SPRING TURF

TIME TO APPLY PRE-EMERGENT TO YOUR NORTH TEXAS LAWN

LATE-FEBRUARY THROUGH EARLY MARCH

THERE'S A SPECIFIC TIME-FRAME TO APPLY



Apply Late-Winter pre-emergents before the soil temperature has warmed to 55 degrees F. For weeds that tend to sprout throughout the summer, a second application may be required in June or July.

STOP THE GROWTH OF SUMMER WEEDS

PREVENT CRABGRASS AND SANDBURS WITH A PRE-EMERGENT APPLICATION AT THE CORRECT TIME.

A pre-emergent application will inhibit the seeds before they can "emerge" or germinate. Applications of Team, Halts, Baian, and Dimension may be used to prevent crabgrass and sandburs. Remember to carefully follow ALL directions on any herbicide you use.



REMEMBER, TIMING IS KEY

DON'T MISS THE BRIEF WINDOW FOR TREATMENT



For summer weeds such as sandburs and crabgrass you can apply pre-emergents 2 to 3 weeks before the average killing freeze date in your area. Check your local forecast. In North Texas this can be from the end of February to the middle of March. If you miss this timeframe for treatment, you will have to wait until next year to apply pre-emergent. Timing is key!

WHAT NOT TO APPLY

AVOID WEED AND FEED APPLICATIONS AS IT IS TOO EARLY TO APPLY FERTILIZERS TO YOUR LAWN

Over fertilizing and over watering can lead to more weeds and disease in your turf.

Annual and Broadleaf weeds can be treated after they emerge. HerbPublicationSCS200713.indd (tamu.edu)
Turfgrass Weeds | AggieTurf (tamu.edu)



MORE INFO 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

Refer to <http://AggieTurf.tamu.edu> for more information on turfgrasses and identification tools for common turfgrass weeds and insects.

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Questions? Contact our Help Desk

email: master.gardener@dentoncounty.com

PHONE: 940-349-2892

TEXAS

MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Denton County

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



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

- Self-guided tours of four unique Denton County properties
- Master Gardener docents on-site in each garden
- Learn about:
 - Native Bees
 - Butterflies & Pollinator Gardens
 - Accessible Gardening
 - Raised Garden Beds
 - Roses
 - Soil Testing
- Ask a Master Gardener at Big Sky Oasis

ALL ABOUT TICKETS

- Advanced purchase \$15, at the gate \$20
- Children 12 and under are FREE
- Purchase online until 5 PM May 6, or from a DCMGA Master Gardener



Scan to buy tickets



Tickets also at dcmga.com

No Refunds. Ticket Sales Final. Tour will happen rain or shine.

GROW WITH US!



Help Desk
940-349-2892
master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov



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.
Denton County Master Gardener Association is delighted to welcome everyone to this year's tour of member gardens. Please be aware that these private properties are not 100% accessible to those with limited mobility. Parking facilities vary by location.

BarB Legacy Farms & Garden

Cross Roads, TX



Big Sky Oasis

Pilot Point, TX



Rockin' B's Creekside Wilderness

Aubrey, TX



Urban Butterfly Haven

Aubrey, TX





2022 GREATER AUBREY AREA GARDENING SERIES

Jumpstart your gardening in 2022 with this free educational series



JANUARY 20

6 - 7:00 pm

Vegetable Gardening

Dana Bays, Mike Crawford



FEBRUARY 17

6 - 7:00pm

Drought Tolerant Plants

Charlotte Canion



MARCH 17

6 - 7:00pm

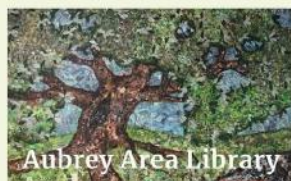
Pollinator Plants

Kim Wootton

Location

Aubrey Area Library
226 Countryside Dr., Aubrey, TX 76227

Sponsored by



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.



TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Denton County

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION'S

Plant Sale

April 23, 2022
9:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M. or Until sellout!!

Trinity United Methodist Church
633 Hobson Lane, Denton

- Texas native plants, tough-as-nails perennials, and no-fuss roses
- Hard-to-find ground covers, bedding plants, and herbs
- Special container plants
- Pass-along plants from Master Gardeners' own gardens
- Master Gardeners available to help you make your selections and answer your gardening questions

Bring your own wagons or carts so you can take home as many of these wonderful plants as your garden can hold.

For more information, visit our website: dcmga.com,
Email: master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov
Call Help Desk phone: (940)349-2892

*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 County AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance of the meeting or event to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

*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.

What's Growing On

Denton County Master Gardener Association Upcoming Events

**Mar
5**

Vegetable Gardening

Presented by Beulah Acres Agroforest Master Gardeners.
9:00 am-noon, Global Spheres Center

**Mar
5**

Tree Care & Planting

Presented by Beulah Acres Agroforest Master Gardeners.
1:00 -4:00 pm, Global Spheres Center

**Mar
9**

General Meeting & Program

Business meeting & program "Gardening Under Glass",
presented by Marilee Crawford. 10 am-noon, Global Spheres
Center & Zoom

**Mar
12**

Gardening 101

Presented by Mike James . noon -1:00 pm, Little Elm Public
Library

**Mar
17**

Pollinator Plants

Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series, presented by Kim
Wootton. 6-7 pm, Aubrey Area Library

**Mar
24**

Ask a Master Gardener

Ladies' Night @ Ace Hardware. 6:00-8:00 pm, Ace Hardware,
912 West University Dr. Denton

**Mar
31**

Fruits & Berries

Presented by DCMGA Tree Specialist, Pat Moyer. 6:00-7:30
pm, Lewisville Grand Theater, 100 N. Charles St. Lewisville

**Apr
2**

Rainwater & Rain Barrel Demo

Presented by Beulah Acres Agroforest Master Gardeners.
9:00 am-noon, Global Spheres Center

**Apr
2**

Composting

Presented by Beulah Acres Agroforest Master Gardeners.
1:00-4:00 pm, Global Spheres Center

**Apr
13**

General Meeting & Program

Business meeting & program "'Gardening as a Therapeutic
Resource", presented by Raeline Nobles, Denton County MG,
10 am, Global Spheres Center

**Apr
23**

DCMGA Annual Plant Sale

9 am - 2 pm or sell-out. Trinity United Methodist Church,
Denton, TX

For detailed information: dcmga.com/upcoming-events

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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.

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YouTube:

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

Save the Date

March 9 General Meeting & Program, "Gardening Under Glass" - Global Spheres & also Virtual (Registration Required for Virtual)

March 17 "Pollinator Plants" - Aubrey Area Library

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Content

Submission deadline for the April edition of The Root is Tuesday, March 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 Cheryl Huckabee at dcmga.communications@gmail.com.

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