

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Hooray for the month of May when gardens and gardeners alike are in their glory!

Right on cue, it's time for our annual Mother's Day weekend Garden Tour. We're delighted to be back, and this year, we're showcasing four properties in the northeast portion of Denton County. Our dedicated [Garden Tour website page](#) offers a sneak peek of the featured gardens as well as an easy way to [purchase your tickets](#) for the Saturday, May 7th event. Rain or shine (hopefully, shine!), we look forward to seeing you!

And, speaking of seeing you, we were thrilled to welcome you all back to our annual, public Plant Sale on April 23rd. The line of plant-loving patrons was long, and the plant varieties were plentiful. The sale was super successful, but the icing on the proverbial cake (bloom on the proverbial rose?) was the joy of DCMGA members and interns interacting with the community that we serve. Thank you, friends and neighbors, for supporting us; may your plants live long and prosper profusely!

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<https://dcmga.com>

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Buds From The Board (Cont.)

Glimpsing around the corner into June, mark your calendar and save your garden's best harvest for our June 18th Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Flower Show. Details will be available soon on the [Upcoming Events page](#) of our [DCMGA website](#).

Last, but in no way least, congratulations to our interns who have completed their initial educational requirements – whoop! Led by Administrators Extraordinaire Kim Wootton, Barbara Beane, and Melissa Migis, and encouraged by everyone (but especially our superb veteran mentors), the Class of 2022 is already indispensable to our Association. Way to go, y'all!

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you're the cream of the crop. Thank you for making life fuller, richer ... and a lot more colorful!

Kathryn



Fairoaks Project

BY DALE POWELL

A Monday morning DCMGA volunteer tradition attended by literally hundreds since Fairoaks was started in 2007 by Barbra Burgin. Dale Powell took over in 2012 so that Barbara could travel with her husband. Katherine Woodward and Pat Moyer became Co-Project managers in 2014 allowing at least one of us to be at every workday. Fairoaks is an independent living facility for disadvantaged adults with duplexes neatly lined up among garden beds and walkways. The Fairoaks project aims to engage each disadvantaged senior resident with a small garden of their own as well as larger community gardens. Community gardens include beautiful rose beds as well as vegetable gardens where residents can harvest their own fresh food, and the DCMGA Children's Garden project. "Giving back" makes the campus a bright spot for their golden years.

Interns and veterans become friends during our weekly workdays as we work, learn, and play together.

Regular weekly workdays have always taught us that everyone has valuable knowledge and experiences to share. In recent years, we added "class-days" to share more gardening knowledge.

Keeping the community gardens watered between workdays is a challenge.

We experiment with timers, sprinklers, drip lines, and micro-sprayers. The folks running the vegetable gardens have become fans of micro-sprayers.

Irrigation changes make great group projects. Many hands make the work go quickly and everyone gets hands on experience with an end-to-end installation. Projects vary each year and include new & reworked gardens, hardscape, picnic table construction, and irrigation. We try to do at least one new project each year.



Roses, Senna Tree, & Ducks



Community Service & Working Together

Fairoaks Project (Cont.)

Fairoaks yearly calendar starts with the Rose Care class. Then we race to get the vegetable gardens ready for the first Children's Garden class and all the gardens cleaned and mulched before too much new growth.




Pat & Don Edwards' Rose Care Class (top left),
Linda Williams & Zoe Broxon's Cooking with Herbs Class (middle left),
Carolyn Tinner's Propagation Class (top right),
A workday adding drip irrigation to a new vegetable garden (bottom left),
Having fun spreading mulch (bottom right).

Fairoaks Project (Cont.)

When the garden cleaning and mulching is done there is some time for projects & planting before the Texas summer heat set in. It's not all work. There are breaks in the shade and lunches after every workday at Metzger's BBQ.



**Filling the new Keyhole Garden with Dyno Soil (top left),
Telling funny stories at lunch (top right),
Having fun modeling Shade-Ware (bottom left),
Lunches at Metzgers (bottom right).**

Please join us! Become part of a DCMGA tradition; give something back to an "older" generation; make some new friends; share knowledge; and have some fun! 

Meet Clarice Luce

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

Clarice called the Piney Woods region of East Texas home. A unique area of disparate ecosystems, the Piney Woods region is a 54,000 square mile area cross of forests, prairies, marshes, lakes, and rivers in eastern Texas, northwestern Louisiana, southwestern Arkansas, and the southeastern corner of Oklahoma. Clarice misses the understory dogwood trees, azaleas, eastern redbuds, and magnolias that thrive in the moist acidic soil in the Piney Woods.

Tomatoes, vegetables, fruit, and pecans grown in her father's garden graced her childhood family table. Her mother did the cooking; having grown up tending cotton, she told her husband, "she would cook anything he wanted to grow, but it would rot on the vine before she would pick it!" She loved to arrange his flowers, though, and always took bouquets of dahlias, pansies, hydrangeas, hyacinths, and amaryllis to church.

Clarice moved to Denton in 1970 to attend UNT and remembers it as being "so barren" compared to her beloved Piney Woods. She and her husband bought an old fraternity house on Oak St. in Denton to remodel. Clarice loved caring for her neighbor's large vegetable garden while he was away because she was allowed to harvest anything she wanted for her efforts!



**Clarice Luce
Class of 2003
Hard at work at the 2022
Plant Sale**



**Tending her butterfly
habitat**



**Swallowtail butterfly
caterpillars**



**Monarch butterfly
chrysalis**

Meet Clarice Luce (Cont.)

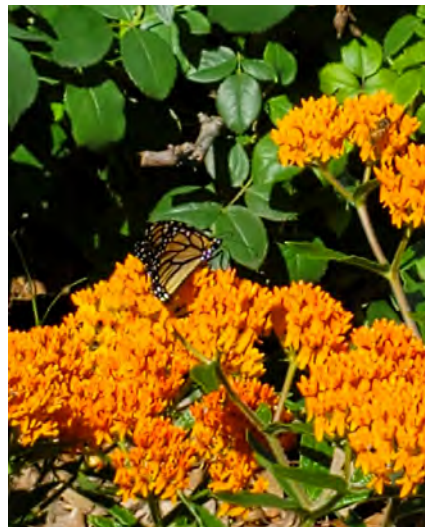
They kept their connections with the Piney Woods and family when they bought a 130-acre timber farm in New London. "It was overgrown but had lots of pine timber. We would drive from Denton one weekend a month so my husband and Dad could work dawn-to-dusk cutting out hardwood and clearing underbrush, and we were able to get one large cutting of pine trees before planting 1,000 new seedlings," says Clarice. They learned all about tree management, including using goats for brush control, and they enjoyed many family picnics around the pond during the 12 years they owned it.

Clarice's current landscape was initially a large vacant lot on a flood plain. In 1985, they brought in 80 truck-loads of red clay soil "because it was cheap," not realizing how much she would regret that later after she became a Master Gardener! The thirty small oaks, pines, pecans, and crape myrtles they planted have since grown tall. Several perennial beds dot their landscape filled with several varieties of Irises, amaryllis, lantana, and daffodils. A butterfly garden is a recent addition planted with several kinds of milkweed, Gregg's mistflower, fennel, roses, red Turk's cap, echinacea, lantana, daylilies, yarrow, hyssop, and flame acanthus. Her favorites include clematis 'Ramona,' passion vine, hyacinth bean vine, coral honeysuckle, and cannas along the fence. Tomatoes, strawberries, and okra grow in a small edible garden. She and her granddaughter, Magnolia, love collecting caterpillars and raising butterflies!

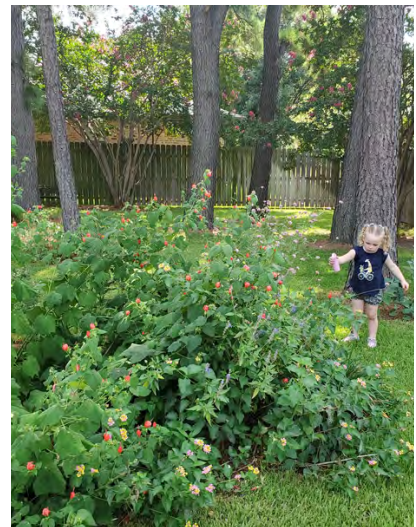
A graduate of the class of 2003, Clarice is an elite member of twelve active Denton County Master Gardeners with over fifteen years of service. She says that it is the best organization she



Butterfly garden



**Milkweed butterfly
host plant**



**Magnolia enjoying the
garden**

Meet Clarice Luce (Cont.)

has ever been part of and has the most amazing group of people! She retired from UNT in December 2002 and is thankful her friend, Darla Bostick, encouraged her to join the 2003 Class. Her volunteer service is long and varied: Fall Garden Fest, Garden Tour, Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show, Gardenscapers, Herbal Branch and Succulent Group, Intern Class Planning, and Mentor Program, Plant Sale, Help Desk, and Sunshine Committee.

Clarice helped with the 2005 Texas Master Gardener State Conference held here in Denton and has attended several others in Hill and Brazos counties. One of her favorite educational activities is the East Texas Horticultural Field Day where ornamental plant trials for commercial seed companies, local nursery managers, and gardening enthusiasts are showcased. Learn more about the 2021 event at this link: <https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2021/07/02/east-texas-horticultural-field-day-set-for-july-22/>. Unfortunately, it will not be held in 2022.

We know Clarice misses East Texas, but we're really happy she's made her home here in Denton County.

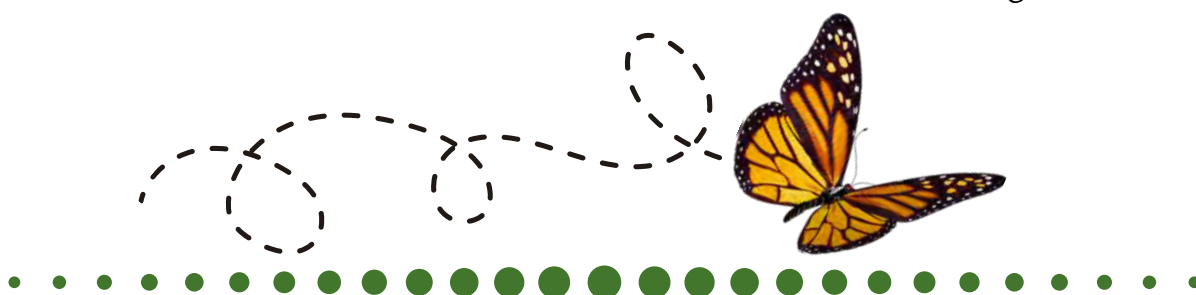
Check out some of Clarice's favorite gardening resources:

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, <https://www.wildflower.org/texas>

Texas A&M Tree Planting Guide, <https://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomology, <http://texashighplainsinsects.net/>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Insects In the City, <https://citybugs.tamu.edu/> 



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 KATHI FAST

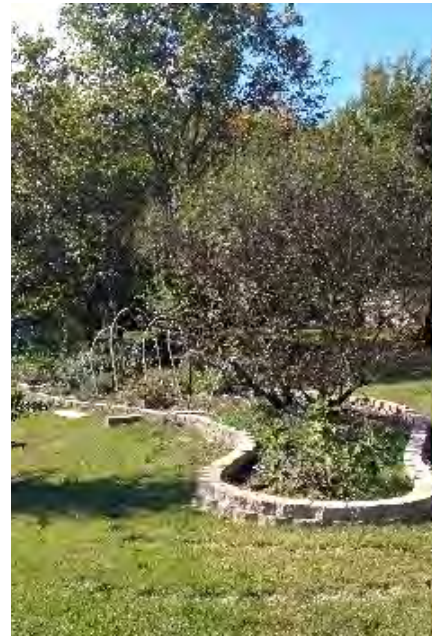
Please plan to join us for the 2022 Garden Tour, May 7, 9 am to 4 pm.

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. Tickets are available NOW at dcmga.com.

Rockin' B's Creekside Wilderness

Three beautiful acres with multiple beds featuring roses, native and adaptive perennials and wildflowers, as well as vegetable gardens. The garden focuses on native bees, with several native bee houses located on the property. A large water collection system located on the property is used only for watering the vegetables.



Urban Butterfly Haven

A virtually maintenance-free property filled with native and adapted plants. This garden requires no herbicides, pesticides, or supplemental watering. An 80 x 5 foot raised vegetable bed occupies much of the side yard and supplies the homeowners with a continuous supply of fresh produce. This "regular-sized" lot packs quite a punch and is sure to inspire gardeners working with spaces of all sizes: small, large, or just right.



2022 Garden Tour Preview (Cont.)

Big Sky Oasis

Enjoy a leisurely drive through Horse Country USA on your way to Big Sky Oasis. Although retired from breeding American Morgan horses, the owners continue to cherish the solitude and tranquility of their ranch. While still enjoying their Morgans, they now have time to embrace their love of roses as well as having the satisfaction of planting and harvesting their favorite vegetables. Discover the simplicity of raised beds and container gardening. Bring your rose questions.



The Bar B Legacy Farm and Gardens

This 22-acre property is the only "working" farm on the tour. It features a large barn with many farm animals, stock tank, hay fields, and includes landscaped and wooded areas. Look for themed flower beds, repurposed items, raised garden beds designed for ergonomic gardening for physically limited gardeners. The property also has guest cottage and she-shed.



Plant of the Month - Vitex

BY TRISH PERCY

I love to walk in my neighborhood – I'm a plant stalker. I notice every time a neighbor changes out a bed, plants a tree, or updates some hardscape on their property. It's almost like having a live Pinterest board! I've come to know two of my favorite ornamental trees here – Crape Myrtle and Vitex. It's the Vitex I want to talk about because it was probably the first tree I ever researched to buy.

I remember the first time I saw one of these trees in full bloom – right around the corner from my house – it stopped me in my tracks. The blooms looked to me like upside-down Crape Myrtle blooms, but the bark was different, and the structural habit of the tree was almost gnarly.

I volunteered at one of the gardens for the Denton Master Gardener Garden Tour a few years ago, and the homeowner had a huge mature Vitex that she had us prune back a bit. I loved the way the limbs go this way and that, kind of like something out of *The Hobbit*. I've heard that if you are a

northerner like me, and miss those lilacs, this might fill the void – I can see why they say this!



Vitex

Tree or Bush?

In my research, I found that this plant could be pretty large but can be pruned to have either a tree structure or a bush structure and that it is well-suited to the Texas climate. The Texas Department of Transportation plants Vitex in highway medians, so you know it must be tough! We believe it to be a native of China, India, and Southern Europe, but since it's been cultivated here in North America for more than 300 years, I think we can consider it one of our own.

The space my husband and I were looking to fill is on the west side of our house, and we had to remove a couple of very mature trees there, so in comparison, it looked very bare to us. Trees can be emotional things – we lost a pear tree to damage and listened to the pears fall for months as it struggled before we could get it taken down. The others were planted too close to the house and were too large for the location – a reminder to us to pay attention to the full-grown size of the tree when planting.

Vitex (Cont.)

We knew we wanted ornamental but also shade to cool down that side of the house. I loved the fact that Vitex blooms here from May through September, so it's a constant source of color. It does lose its leaves in winter (it's deciduous) so we get the sun when we need it. Because the blooms set on new growth, we were told to prune in the spring before it leafs out.

My husband is what I call a functional gardener. He looks for things that do exactly what he wants and that require no care. I always tell him he's looking for "magic plants," but Vitex comes close. It needs full sun (hey, this is Texas, right? We've got plenty of that!), and once it's established it only requires minimal water, some spring pruning, and compost to thrive. If you want to spend a little more time, deadheading the spent flowers will encourage more blooms.

Cultivars

When we looked at the Vitex cultivars available, we settled on the Shoal Creek Vitex – it's a plant that can be 10'-15' in height, and if you leave it alone it spreads like a bush. We were looking for a tree, and that's easy to achieve with yearly pruning after the first year. The Shoal Creek also has larger purple spikes than normal and is more disease resistant. A win all around!

Planting

We bought two of these trees, spaced a year apart. My husband picked a warm day to install the first one, digging the hole himself. We always make the hole twice as big as the root ball we are

planting to ensure the tree has plenty of room for root expansion. I like to plant "wet to wet," which means we added compost to the hole and watered both the roots and the hole before we planted. We had to raise it up a bit to make sure the tree was high enough – if you plant it too deeply the trunk can rot.

The first Vitex took off and doubled in size the first year. We happily planted our second and it is following the same path. I love that I can sit at my desk in my office and see the trees blooming outside – bees and hummingbirds love the flowers, and they wave in the breeze as if they're calling me outside to play.



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Trish Percy

Vitex

Vitex (Cont.)

How can you get your hands on a Vitex?

There are a number of local tree nurseries that stock Vitex trees. When you call or search the internet, look for *Vitex agnus-castus*. Trees are best planted in early spring before they come out of dormancy, and that is a good rule of thumb in Texas as the hot summers can stress a newly transplanted tree and make it harder to get it established. You may have to order a Vitex and wait for it to be in stock as we did, as they are a hot commodity. If you have one or have a friend who has one, watch for seedlings that can be transplanted!

Note: Vitex sap is a skin irritant and can cause painful blisters – gloves are recommended when pruning.

Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Texas Lilac Vitex: A Hot Summer 'Texas Superstar' Plant"

<https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/homehort/archives-of-weekly-articles-davids-plant-of-the-week/texas-lilac-vitex-a-hot-summer-texas-superstar-plant/>

"Vitex, or Chaste Tree (*Vitex Agnus-castus*)"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/2008/jun08/Vitex.html>

Denton County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA)

"Texas Vitex"

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/perennials/master-gardener-favorites/texas-vitex/>

GardenGuides

"How to Plant Vitex in Texas"

<https://www.gardenguides.com/111003-plant-vitex-texas.html>

"How to Prune Mahonia"

<https://www.gardenguides.com/119076-prune-mahonia.html>



DCMGA Garden Tour - May 7, 2022
[Purchase Your Tickets Now!](#)



Plant of the Month - Polar Bear Zinnia

BY JERRY ALEXANDER

Zinnias have been an old fashion summer garden staple for as far back as any of us can remember. They have always been these bright beautiful colors of yellows, oranges, golds, pinks or purples, etc. However, we don't ever recall seeing any zinnias that bloomed in white, which is a color you seldom find blooming in flower gardens and particularly, large white blooms.

Plant Description

The botanical name for Polar Bear Zinnias is *Zinnia Elegans* 'Polar Bear'. It is an annual, but a long season one with blooms from late spring to late fall. The blooms are constant, not fading or drying like other zinnias that we have grown. They require full sun. The plant is upright and tall, up to 30 inches with large flowers of two types on the same plant – one is a large zinnia bloom and the other is more like a Daisy bloom. The blooms almost look artificial and there will be multiple blooms on each plant.



Photos Courtesy of DCMGA Member Jerry Alexander

Polar Bear Zinnia

There are several places to order these zinnia seeds online, but we stumbled across our four-inch plants at a local nursery in Denton. Last year was the first that they have grown zinnias, as they normally stock only native and perennial plants, so check your local nurseries.

You can sow the seeds directly into the ground after the last frost. Keep the soil moist until they sprout and you can transplant the seedlings to other sunny spots in your garden. This plant is easy to grow and requires little care. It's fairly drought tolerant and attracts pollinators and hummingbirds. It's deer resistant and the blooming stems can be used for indoor cut flowers.



Polar Bear Zinnia



On a final note, we often think of flowers that are orange, yellow, gold and red, etc., as being pollinator attractors, but it has been our experience that white blooms are great for attracting pollinators such as butterflies and bees. Polar Bear Zinnias are a "must try" because of its white color and stately appearance. Also, we think you will be pleased with the beautiful white contrast you will see in your garden.

Know Your White-Flowering Plants Avoiding Toxic Exposure

BY ANDREA MARSHALL, TRINITY FORKS CHAPTER, NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS,
AND LIZ MOYER, DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

There are several similar white flowers blooming in our area over the spring and summer that we should avoid when in natural areas. These include poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*), snow-on-the-prairie (*Euphorbia marginata*, *E. bicolor*) and wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*). While it is unlikely you'll run across poison hemlock on a city lot, it could pop up on a vacant lot or you might find it when out for a walk or hike. It's wise to be able to identify it. Hemlock is a deadly plant – just ask Socrates – and children, pets and livestock should be protected from it.

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and Water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*)

These two plants are very similar except that poison hemlock grows up to ten feet high in dry areas like roadsides and fencerows, and water hemlock grows up to four feet high in – surprise! – wet areas.

Key Characteristics:

- Highly toxic
- Biennial
- Stems with purple splotches grow two to ten feet tall
- Divided compound leaves that taper to a point
- White flowers are borne in umbrella-shaped clusters
- Fruit is egg-shaped in outline, with distinctive wavy ribs on the surface

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and Water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*) are both highly poisonous to humans and animals. Native to Europe and western Asia, poison hemlock was introduced into the United States in the 1800s as a "winter fern" for gardens and, according to the National Park Service, has now invaded almost every state in the United States. It is moving onto rangelands and is deadly to grazing animals. Poison hemlock is found at roadsides, on edges of cultivated fields, along creekbeds and irrigation ditches, and in waste areas. Water hemlock is found near ponds or other wet areas.

Both plants grow on smooth, hairless, hollow green stems that usually have purple spots and streaks. The leaves have some resemblance to ferns. They are opposite and compound, with the leaflets divided into narrow segments. When crushed, the leaves emit a rank odor.

Know Your White-Flowering Plants (Cont.)

The link below is to a PennState Extension video showing how to identify poison hemlock. (If clicking the link does not open the page, copy and paste the link into your browser search field.): <https://extension.psu.edu/poison-hemlock-identification/>

All parts of these plants are poisonous. When poison hemlock sap contacts a person's skin, the sap can react with the sun and cause blisters and welts. But while the sap can prove dangerous, the true threat is if any part of the plant — stalk and stems, leaves, flowers, seeds or roots — were to be ingested. Hemlock poisoning can be fatal with no antidote. All plant parts contain toxic alkaloids that can interfere with nerve transmissions to your muscles, ultimately causing respiratory failure. Other signs of poisoning can include trembling, salivation, pupil dilation, muscle paralysis, seizures, paralysis and loss of speech.

Poison hemlock is so pervasive at this point, eradicating it completely may be impossible. However, it is important to try to control or remove it, especially from those areas where humans and animals may come in contact with it.

The best time for management efforts is in the spring. There are several common and effective herbicides to use on the plant. For more information about herbicides, click on the link below to see the *Field Guide for Managing Poison Hemlock in the Southwest*. Chemicals should be applied in the early months before the plant begins flowering.

Field Guide for Managing Poison Hemlock in the Southwest:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5410121.pdf

When managing poison hemlock by digging it, April is the prime month for control. Dig up the entire plant and then let it dry completely in the sun (place it where it is inaccessible) before discarding. Wrap it up and put it in the trash; do not burn or compost it. If the plant has begun flowering, usually in May, clip the flowers before they go to seed and bag them. Be sure to use recommended precautions for handling. Once the seeds start maturing in July, trying to cut or remove it will create a greater risk for exposure or spreading the seed.

Always use caution and protection when handling poison hemlock. When attempting to remove poison hemlock, wear gloves, long sleeves and pants as well as goggles for eye protection.

Avoid mowing over poison hemlock or cutting it down with a weed-whacker after seeds have set. Not only does this increase spreading of the plant, it also risks throwing the seeds and sap into the air where they can come in contact your skin or be ingested.

Know Your White-Flowering Plants (Cont.)

Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*)

Queen Anne's lace is also a biennial growing to two to four feet tall. It has hairy, solid, green stems and no purple mottling. The flower clusters of Queen Anne's lace tend to have a flatter shape and there is often a single darker flower in the center of the cluster. The older blooms curl up and inward, like an inside-out umbrella. It may be hard to tell the difference between the two plants by just looking at the green, fern-like leaves, but those of poison hemlock have a musty, unpleasant odor when crushed; Queen Anne's lace foliage has a carrot-like scent.

Contact with Queen Anne's Lace may cause skin irritation in those with sensitive skin.

Although Queen Ann's lace is not native to North America, it is a host plant for eastern black swallowtail caterpillars and many butterflies, adult bees, and beneficial insects utilize the flower nectar. For additional information about Queen Anne's lace, click on this link:

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/queen-annes-lace-daucus-carota/>

Snow-on-the-Prairie (*Euphorbia marginata*, *E. bicolor*)

Snow-on-the-Prairie (*Euphorbia marginata*, *E. bicolor*) is grown as much for its foliage as for its flowers, snow-on-the-mountain's small but showy leaves may be light green, variegated or entirely white. They clasp erect, many-branched stems which grow 1-3 ft. tall. Tiny flowers, each with whitish, petal-like bracts, are borne in clusters atop the stems.

This plant is often seen covering an entire meadow and may invite further examination. It is often sold for landscaping purposes and will do well in clay soils with medium moisture and partial shade. Unfortunately, the sap may cause blistering of the skin if the stems are broken.

All parts of this plant, either dried or fresh and extracts made from them can be toxic if ingested to both humans and cattle. Ingestion causes inflammation or blistering of the mouth, throat, and esophagus. Contact with plant can cause irritation of skin, eyes, and mucous membranes. Sensitivity varies with a person's age, weight, physical condition, and individual susceptibility. Children are most vulnerable because of their curiosity and small size.

Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)

Wild parsnip also grows along roadsides, in open areas and in moist conditions like ditches. While wild parsnip blooms with a bright yellow flower, it's bloom type and preferred growing condition mean that it may be confused with any of the plants discussed above. It can be differentiated by the yellow flower and its lack of purple mottling on its stem. Alas, this lovely prairie plant is also invasive and toxic. Care should be taken around it as the sap will cause severe blistering.

Know Your White-Flowering Plants (Cont.)

Protect yourself!

With all of these plants, prevention of adverse reaction begins with protecting yourself.

- When hiking in open meadows or other areas where they may be present, be sure to wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and close-toed shoes.
- Teach children not to eat plants they find growing in non-garden areas and keep a close watch on them when in area such as roadsides, open meadows, etc.
- Carry a guide that will help you identify these plants.
- If you believe you may have come into contact with any of these plants, after hiking, remove clothing in a manner that keeps it wrong-side out, bundle it up and wash it at the first opportunity.
- Always carry the number for the National Poison Control Center with you – 1-800-222-1222.
- If you believe any member of your party has ingested any of these plants, take a piece of the plant with you to the emergency room. It can be wrapped in paper towels or placed in a plastic bag to avoid further contact during transport.

References

National Park Service, "Exotic Species: Poison Hemlock

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/poison-hemlock.htm>

Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Poisonous Hemlock"

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/pacific-west-area/logan-ut/poisonous-plant-research/docs/poison-hemlock-conium-maculatum/>

Texas A&M Extension Service, "Plants of Texas Rangelands"

<https://rangeplants.tamu.edu/plant>

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Plant Database, [Wildflower.org](https://www.wildflower.org)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Don't touch these plants!"

<https://www.fws.gov/story/dont-touch-these-plants>

Iowa State University, Extension and Outreach, "Weed watch: Wild parsnip and poison hemlock"

<https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/encyclopedia/weed-watch-wild-parsnip-and-poison-hemlock>

*The following two pages can be used as a handy field guide.
Print it off, stick in your glove compartment, and refer to when hiking.*

Poison Hemlock



Delaware Department of
Agriculture

Robert Videcki
National Park Service

**Poison Hemlock or
Water Hemlock
Ingestion**

Poison Control Center
1-800-222-1222

If chewed or eaten, go
to nearest Emergency
Room.
Take the plant with
you.

Water Hemlock



C & L Loughmiller
Wildflower.org

Suzanne Cadwell

Queen Anne's Lace



Joshua Mayer

Snow-on-the-Prairie



Wild Parsnip



Joshua Mayer

White Blooming Wild Plants of the DFW Area

	Poison Hemlock <i>Conium maculatum</i>	Water hemlock, aka spotted cowbane <i>Cicuta maculata</i>	Queen Anne's lace, aka wild carrot <i>Daucus carota</i>	Snow-on-the-Prairie <i>Euphorbia marginata, E. bicolor</i>	Wild parsnip <i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
Stem characteristics	Stems with purple splotches	May vary in color and pattern, from solid green or purple to green with purple spots or stripes	Hairy, solid, green stems and no purple mottling	Smooth, hairless, green stems	Hairless and grooved
Plant height	2-10 feet tall	3-6 feet tall	2-4 feet tall	1-3 feet tall	2-5 feet tall
Flower	White in umbrella-shaped clusters	White in umbrella-shaped clusters	White in umbrella-shaped clusters, often has a small reddish flower in center	White in umbrella-shaped clusters	Yellow in umbrella-shaped clusters
Leaves	May be 6" wide and 12" long, with many oval to broadly oval leaflets opposite each other.	Small leaflets with toothed edges. Side veins of the leaves lead to notches, not to tips, at the outer leaflet margins.	Feathery leaves similar to carrots	Whorl of four or five petal-like leaves, usually yellow-green surrounding the flower cluster	Oblong leaflets. Stem leaves are alternate, with 2-5 pairs of opposite, sharply toothed leaflets
Toxicity to people and animals	Highly toxic; ingestion of even small amounts is fatal to humans and animals; causes muscle tremors, paralysis and death	Highly toxic; ingestion may cause convulsions, delirium, nausea, seizures and vomiting - often resulting in death	May cause skin irritation in those with sensitive skin	Somewhat toxic; sap will blister the skin and cause diarrhea if eaten	May cause skin irritation, blistering rashes and skin discoloration
Habitat	Dense stands in roadside ditches and stream banks	Wet areas, stream banks, pond margins, marshes	Dry fields, roadside ditches, open areas	Tight clay soils and dry streambeds	Sunny, open areas, wet or dry

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

We're pleased to welcome
Texas Conservation Alliance
Executive Director Ben Jones,
who will present
"Gardening for Wildlife."

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.



Spotted in Members' Gardens



Photo: DCMGA member Kathryn Wells
**Mexican Plum,
White-Lined Sphinx Moth**
prunus mexicana, Hyles lineata



Photo: DCMGA member Janet Gershenfeld
**Rusty Blackhaw
Viburnum**
Viburnum rufidulum

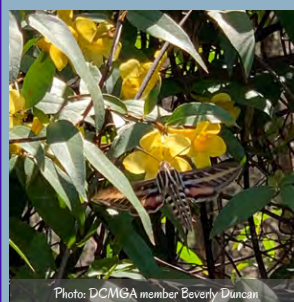


Photo: DCMGA member Beverly Duncan
**Carolina Jasmine, White-
Lined Sphinx Moth**
Gelsemium sempervirens, Hyles lineata



Photo: DCMGA member KC Walsh
Louisian Iris
Iris ser. Hexagonae



DCMGA Garden Tour - May 7, 2022
Purchase Your Tickets Now!



DCMGA Horticulture Scholarship

BY JERRY ALEXANDER

This year's DCMGA Horticulture Scholarship is awarded to Evan Price. This name is familiar because he was also the recipient in 2021. Evan is a continuing student at Oklahoma State University (OSU) Stillwater, Oklahoma. This is his second year at OSU, which would normally make him a sophomore, but Evan is considered to be a junior by the number of hours he has on his transcript. He is striving for a degree in Natural Resources, Ecology and Management and is currently enrolled in 15 credit hours, while working part time. Last semester, fall of 2021, Evan's GPA was 3.706 with an overall GPA of 3.789. Go Evan!

Evan is from Pilot Point, Texas, where he resides with his family while on school break. Surely, they are proud, as we are, of Evan's accomplishments. We salute Evan Price once again with a big Texas "Congratulations!" as the 2022 DCMGA Horticulture Scholarship recipient.

Find more information about our scholarship program at this link:

<https://dcmga.com/scholarship/>.

Janet Laminack, Denton CEA

Kathryn Wells, President

Jerry and Gloria Alexander, Scholarship Chairs



Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies: A Field Guide by Jim Weber, Lynne M. Weber, Roland H. Wauer. Texas A&M University Press; First edition (August 1, 2018)

Native Texas Gardens: Maximum Beauty Minimum Upkeep by Sally Wasowski and Andy Wasowski. Taylor Trade Publishing (October 10, 2003).

Passalong Plants by Steve Bender and Felder Rushing. The University of North Carolina Press; First Printing edition (November 30, 2002)

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 Resources & Education Opportunities

For Master Gardeners and the Community We Serve

Science-based knowledge on a variety of topics.



Denton County Master Gardener Association YouTube Playlists

Flower Arranging

Herbs & Vegetables

Organic Gardening

Other Gardening Topics

Permaculture

Seasonal Tasks & Tips

Waterwise Gardening

Wildlife Habitat Gardening

Houseplants

Landscaping

Pollinators

Roses

Shade Plants

Tree Care

Turf Care

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



DCMGA General Meeting Presentation

May 18, 2022. 10:00 am to Noon – Note date change due to Texas State Master Gardener Association Conference

Open To The Public

"Gardening for Wildlife" presented by Texas Conservation Alliance Executive Director Ben Jones.

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://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckdOuopjMjHtcYOO651pvgoRNRpJiKVSgi>



Children's Garden

The children's garden invites parents & their children to learn about gardening through planting, maintaining, & harvesting vegetables & herbs.

Our children's garden is unique since we share the garden with Fair Oaks, a senior independent living community.

We will be planting in the vegetable garden at the back of Fair Oaks with the residents—a wonderful opportunity for children and seniors to experience a growing garden together.

May 5, 2022 – "Butterflies in the Garden & Nectar/Host Plants"

May 12, 2022 – "Diary of a Worm"

May 19, 2022 – "Maintain Trees"

May 26, 2022 – "Compost with Worms"

10–11 am for all dates.

Location: Fair Oaks Senior Housing, 1950 Lattimore St, Denton.

DCMGA Members

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



BY HELP DESK TEAM

Q: I'm very concerned. I have poison hemlock growing in an area of my backyard. How do I kill it?

A: Wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), also known as Queen Anne's Lace, is often mistakenly identified as poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and it is more likely what is growing in your backyard. Both are weeds, but the control method may be different once correctly identified.

Poison hemlock is in the same family (*Apiaceae*) as carrots, celery, parsnips, and several herbs, including parsley, cilantro, chervil, fennel, anise, dill, and caraway.

Poison Hemlock vs. Wild Carrot

Stems (Fig 1): The most distinct visible difference between poison hemlock and wild carrot is the stems. The poison hemlock's stem has purple blotches, is "hairless," and hollow. Wild carrot's stem is green (young plants), burgundy-green (mature plants), and "hairy."

Foliage (Fig 2): Although both species have fern-like leaves, there are some differences in the leaves. The leaves of poison hemlock are sharper in detail, up to 2 feet long, and

glossy dark green without "hairs." Wild carrot leaves are lacy or feathery, shorter (2-6 inches long), and nearly hairless to bristly-haired.

Flowers (Fig 3): The flowers of poison hemlock and wild carrot are more similar. Both have white flowers clustered at the end of the stem that are flat, umbrella-like.

Poison Hemlock vs. Wild Carrot



Poison Hemlock Stem

Figure 1

Wild Carrot Stem



Poison Hemlock Foliage

Figure 2

Wild Carrot Foliage



Poison Hemlock Flower

Figure 3

Wild Carrot Flower

Scent: When crushed, the leaves and stems of poison hemlock have an unpleasant odor, whereas the leaves and stems of wild carrot smell like carrots when crushed.

Habitat: Poison hemlock and wild carrot are considered invasive plants found in fields, pastures, vegetable crops, orchards, roadsides, and other disturbed places.

Wild carrot is typically found in sandy or gravelly soils, and poison hemlock prefers moist soils.

Impact: Of course, there's a significant difference in the effect of poison hemlock vs. wild carrot. Poison hemlock is toxic to livestock and humans through ingestion. Cases of human poisoning are relatively rare. The toxin affects the nervous system and can result in fairly rapid death in livestock that feeds on poison hemlock in fresh foliage, stored silage, or contaminated hay. The sap of poison hemlock can also cause contact dermatitis.

Management & Control

The management of both poison hemlock and wild carrot are similar.

- Inspect areas frequently for new infestations. Young plants of both species start as rosettes of foliage.
- Mechanical removal is preferred using a spade or trowel. Wear gloves and long sleeves to avoid skin exposure to the sap of poison hemlock. Be sure to remove the entire taproot to prevent regrowth. Discard the plant in the trash, do not compost or burn it.
- Mowing frequently before flowering begins or plowing or cultivating the area will disrupt the seed germination cycle. Bag and discard the clippings to avoid inadvertently dispersing seeds.
- Use herbicides only as a spot treatment on seedlings or small rosettes. Mechanically remove mature plants. Large infestations may be treated with herbicides containing active ingredients 2,4-D, triclopyr, or glyphosate. Fully follow label instructions about

protective clothing and treat carefully to avoid overspray. You can use an empty six ounce can (from tomato paste, for example) with both ends removed to guard against overspray.

Learn more about poison hemlock and wild carrot from the links below.

Sources & Resources

"Poison Hemlock," University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources
<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74.162.html>

"Wild Carrot," University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources
http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/WEEDS/wild_carrot.html

"The 'Don't Touch Me' Plants," Purdue University Extension
<https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/purdueweedscience/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/The-Dont-Touch-Me-Plants.pdf>



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.

Children's Garden



**GREAT PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS & THEIR CHILDREN
PRESENTED BY DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

May 5, "Butterflies in the Garden"

May 12, "Diary of a Worm"

May 19, "Maintain Trees"

May 26, "Compost with Worms"

10:00-11:00 AM

FAIROAKS SENIOR HOUSING

1950 LATTIMORE ST, DENTON, TX 76209-4705



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





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,

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



at the MARKET GARDEN TOUR

Shop for goodies to decorate your
garden & home from local artists &
Master Gardener crafts people

Wild n Woolly Creations

Catching the Sun

Green Metal Art

Go Garden

Texas Gourd Society

Sketchy Friends*

Carvings by Gary

Purple Goat Clay

Inspired Naturalist

Rockhill Design

Vendors at Bar B Legacy Farms & Garden, Cross Roads, TX
Sketchy Friends at all 4 gardens

Saturday, May 7, 9 am - 4 pm

A family-friendly event you won't want to miss!
Self-guided tours of four unique Denton County properties
Master Gardener docents on-site
Advanced purchase \$15, at the gate \$20. Children 12 and under are FREE.
Purchase tickets at dcmga.com or from a Master Gardener

**Denton County Master
Gardener Association**

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Keep Lewisville Beautiful



Learn valuable garden secrets through our educational gardening class series: Garden Secrets.

In partnership with the Denton County Master Gardeners Association and The City of Lewisville, KLB is excited to bring you our Garden Secrets Series classes.

- March 31: Fruits, Nuts, and Berries with Pat Moyer
- April 7: Butterfly Gardening with Bonnie Ambrose
- September 1: Herb Gardening with Bonnie Ambrose
- September 15: Plant Propagation with Sue Newhouse
- November 17: Texas Natives with (TBD)

6:00 - 7:00 PM
Lewisville Grand Theater
100 N. Charles St.
Lewisville, TX 75057

To register, email info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org or call 972-538-5949

Brought to you by:





DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION & THE CITY OF DENTON
INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

2022

FRUIT, VEGETABLE, HERB & FLOWER SHOW



SATURDAY JUNE 18TH
9 AM - NOON

DENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL
PARK & COMMUNITY MARKET
317 W. MULBERRY ST., DENTON



SCAN THIS TO
SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY



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AGRICULTURE, AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTS OF TEXAS COOPERATING.



What's Growing On

Denton County Master Gardener Association Upcoming Events

**May
7**

Garden Tour

9:00 am - 4:00 pm . Four Denton County properties in Aubrey, Crossroads, and Pilot Point

**May
18**

General Meeting & Program

Business meeting & program "Gardening for Wildlife" presented by Ben Jones, Executive Director, Texas Conservation Alliance. 10 am - noon, Global Spheres Center

**May
5-26**

Children's Garden

Thursdays, 10:00 am - 11:00 am . Fair Oaks Senior Housing, Denton, TX

**June
2-16**

Children's Garden

Thursdays, 10:00 am - 11:00 am . Fair Oaks Senior Housing, Denton, TX

**June
8**

General Meeting & Program

Business meeting & program "Flower Arrangement" presented by Holly's Gardens & Florist, Joe Prevratil. 10 am-noon, Global Spheres Center

**June
18**

Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show

9:00 am - 12:00 pm . Denton County Historical Park, Denton, TX

**June
28**

Getting to Know Your Sprinklers

6:30 - 8:00 pm . presented in partnership with Upper Trinity Regional Water District. Global Spheres Center, Corinth, TX.

**July
13**

General Meeting & Program

Business meeting & program "Ecological Landscaping" presented by Wildscapers Landscape Co. 10 am-noon, Global Spheres Center

**August
4**

KLB Garden Secrets Series: Fall Vegetable Gardening

6:00 - 7:00 pm . presented in partnership with Keep Lewisville Beautiful. Lewisville Grand Theater, Lewisville, TX.

**August
10**

General Meeting & Program

Business meeting & program (TBD) 10 am-noon, Global Spheres Center

For detailed information: [dcmga.com/upcoming events](https://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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<https://twitter.com/@DentonCountyMGA>

Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

Save the Date

- May 7 DCMGA Garden Tour
- May 18 General Meeting & Program, "Gardening for Wildlife" - Global Spheres & also Virtual (Registration Required for Virtual)

Contact Information

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Content

Submission deadline for the June edition of *The Root is Sunday, May 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.