

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Happy September, friends; how wonderful to be back in the "ber" months with relatively cooler temperatures and much-needed rain ... yay!

The refreshing new season is prime time for autumn gardening. To help you prepare, we have several upcoming programs including plant propagation, seed saving, and inspirational garden art ideas. And, as you look ahead to what is arguably the best season of the year, please save the date for our September 17th educational event: "Fall into Gardening: Learn to Grow & Manage the Flow". Held in partnership with Upper Trinity Regional Water District and Beulah Acres, the all-day event features four important programs: Rainwater & Watershed, Soil & Soil Nutrition, Texas Native Plants, and Vegetable Gardening. Hands-on learning activities, interactive demonstrations, and garden tours will also be offered, and if you'd like to spend the entire day with us (we hope you will!), box lunches are available to order. Other than lunch, the entire educational event is free and open to the public, but online registration is requested, so that we can plan to accommodate all of our guests.

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<https://dcmga.com>

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Buds From The Board (Cont.)

In the meantime, please plan to join us in cyberspace for our September 14th General Meeting and Program where plant ecologist expert Suzanne Tuttle will present "Inviting the Prairie into Your Home Garden." As always, our monthly general meetings are free and open to the public. For these virtual meetings via Zoom videoconference, advance registration is required for both members and guests, and replays of all our recent virtual meetings and programs are available on our DCMGA YouTube channel.

And, if you're interested in becoming a Denton County Master Gardener, we are now accepting applications for our 2023 training class. You're also welcome to join us for an Informational Meeting on Friday, October 14th at 10 am at Global Spheres Center.

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you are the cream of the crop. I hope your autumn is full to overflowing with happy harvests!

Kathryn

TOP GARDENING TIPS

September

Tidy perennial beds: remove spent flowers, seed heads, and past-prime foliage; avoid severe pruning.
Begin sowing wildflower seeds (late September). Press into the soil to facilitate germination; do not mulch.
Sow fall vegetable & herb seeds and place transplants.

#DCMGA #GROWWITHUS

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Fall Into Gardening: Learn to Grow and Manage the Flow

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

Autumn is prime time for planting, planning, and preparing gardens. Plants require less water during fall's milder, wetter weather. New plants get a 6-month jump start on spring growth to establish robust root systems.

Fall is a great time to plant cool-season vegetables, herbs, and flowering annuals. Spring blooming bulbs and perennials benefit from the cooler weather to get established, and many need cold winter temperatures to break dormancy. The "sweetheart" time to plant trees and shrubs is from Thanksgiving to Valentine's Day.

Take advantage of autumn's pleasant weather to plan and prepare for the spring season. Prepare garden beds, add compost and mulch and have the soil tested through Texas A&M Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory. Inspect and repair automatic sprinkler systems. Add drip irrigation and rain barrels to conserve water. Collect seeds from favorite heirloom flowers and vegetables and start cool-season vegetables and herbs from seed to transplant in spring.

Get a jump start on spring at the Denton County Master Gardener Association **Fall into Gardening: Learn to Grow & Manage the Flow** education event, September 17, 2022, presented in partnership with Upper Trinity Regional Water District and Beulah Acres. Four free classes, hands-on activities, and garden tours by Denton County Master Gardeners will inspire you.

Rainwater + Watershed - Water is one of the most valuable assets in life. Not just because people need it to survive, but also for plants, lawn, trees, veggies, wildlife, and everyday human necessities. Understanding how rainwater behaves on your property will help you use it efficiently and experience success in your landscape design. Learn about the importance of watersheds and rainwater harvesting. (Class 8-10 am)

Soil + Soil Nutrition - The soil is the source of all the elements plants need: nutrients, organic matter, air, and water. Healthy soil is also the foundation of a water-efficient landscape, particularly here in North Texas, where our soils are almost always poorly draining sticky clay. Learn about soil testing and amendments to improve your soil. (Class 10:30 am-noon)

Texas Native Plants - Native and adaptive plants are naturally accustomed to our local soil types and climate, allowing them to flourish with less water and supplemental fertilization. They can also attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinator species. Learn how to select, install, and maintain native and adaptive plants in your landscape. (Class 1-2:30 pm)

Fall Into Gardening (Cont.)

Vegetable Gardening - Improve your chances of having a delicious garden harvest. Learn about preparation, when and what to plant, care and maintenance, harvesting, and solving problems. (Class 3-4:30 pm)

Hands-On Activities & Tours - Learn about drip irrigation, starting plants from seeds, the natural movement of streams and rivers, and more. Tours the beautiful Israel Prayer Garden and Beulah Acres AgroForest Permaculture Gardens for gardening ideas. (Between classes)

We hope you'll join us for this incredible education experience!

Fall into Gardening: Learn to Grow & Manage the Flow

Saturday, September 17, 2022, 8 am – 4:30 pm

Global Spheres Center, 7801 S I35, Corinth, TX

[Register Here](#)



FALL INTO GARDENING

LEARN TO GROW & MANAGE THE FLOW

Saturday, September 17th, 2022
8 am - 4:30 pm

Global Spheres Center
7801 S I35, Corinth

FREE CLASSES BY MASTER GARDENERS

- 8:00-10a Rainwater+Watershed
- 10:30a-12p Soil+Soil Nutrition
- 1-2:30p Texas Native Plants
- 3-4:30p Vegetable Gardening

HANDS-ON LEARNING ACTIVITIES

GARDEN TOURS

Register on dcmga.com



Rainwater +
Watershed



Soil + Soil
Nutrition



Texas Native
Plants



Vegetable
Gardening

Meet A Few 2022 Master Gardener Interns

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE



Class of 2022 at Bayless-Selby House

After a couple of challenging years due to the pandemic, we were ready for a fresh start with a new class of Master Gardener Interns. Forty-five interns took off out of the blocks in a full sprint, completing 75+ hours of training and over 4,000 hours of volunteer service to our mission of educating the community about sustainable gardening.

We asked the 2022 interns about their experiences this year. Here's what a few of them had to say.

Mike James

"I remember walking into a class with one of the many great instructors that DCMGA brings to the table, thinking I know Dirt. No way is he going to teach me anything because I know Dirt. I still like Dirt, but I like Soil better. The learning has been fabulous.

"I wanted a shrub with red berries, and from Steve Spurgin, just one of our many 'Grand Masters,' I learned that a possumhaw holly was probably the best plant for me. But I did not learn because I jumped too fast: the females are the ones with the red berries, and the only way to tell the females from the males is during the fall. Guess when I bought my two plants? Yup, in the spring. So, I will buy a couple more in the fall this year. I learned that timing is just as important as the right plant, the right soil, and the right amount of water.



**Mike James
Class of 2022**

"Continuing education for me requires that it makes me uncomfortable and pushes boundaries for me. I barely know anything about Native Plants, and that seems to be the center of my plant learning. I have been fortunate to work on some great projects that push me to learn on many fronts.

Meet Master Gardener Interns (Cont.)

"As I transitioned into retirement, it was clear that my psyche would not allow me to sit around. Thanks to Lori Barr, who introduced me to DCMGA and the world of gardening. DCMGA has provided me an opportunity of giving back, and my goal is to make a difference. I am absolutely having a blast, and I really enjoy helping.

"There are bound to be a zillion good reasons to become a Master Gardener. Just a few might be working with some of the smartest people you will ever meet, being a part of something good that makes our community a better place to live, and contributing in the way that works for you; it can be different for every one of us. If you want to make a difference and have fun while you do, this is the place."

Jakki Lock

"Some of my memorable moments are at Garden Tour at Barbara's house. It was so much fun working with all the other gardeners, and the co-project manager Beverly was amazing! I went with her to the D&L feed store and got 13 bags of mulch. Guess who unloaded them all and spread them all? Me, but it was fun!

"In my own garden, I have added so many helpful things: water conservation items like two 275-gallon water collection tanks and how to use compost in my garden to deal with bugs in a natural way, changed out a lot of my plants to natives and pollinator plants. So many things I've learned and applied.



Jakki Lock
Class of 2022



Jakki's Raised Beds

"In 2023, I want to really learn to landscape. I hope to get a pool next year, so I want to learn what plants are best to have away from and around your pool. I want to have a beautiful yard that I can share with my friends and family.

"I would like to volunteer at the plant sale again in 2023. Getting a chance to see the community come together and see people buying local plants is awesome. Loved it!

Meet Master Gardener Interns (Cont.)

"I have learned what not to do and what to do. My family and friends ask me all kinds of questions, and even though I went through the training, I don't know it all. To have a resource like the Help Desk that I send them to or ask myself. Getting a real-time answer is awesome.

"Becoming a Master Gardener has helped me by having a community and knowing if you need help, someone is willing to be there. Also, learning so much, people think, 'I've been gardening for years. What are they going to teach me?' Everything!! I say you can always learn something."



Missy McCormick
Class of 2022

Missy McCormick

"My passion is vegetable gardening. Volunteering at Shiloh Field has been a great opportunity for me to help with planting, harvesting, etc., in a large community garden. Each time I go, I always learn so much and have a great time with the other volunteers!

"I have incorporated the composting process I learned from Daniel Arenas's presentation in my garden. In 2023, I hope to have the opportunity to do advanced training in vegetable gardening. Some other areas of interest are plant propagation, growing berries and herbs, and pollinator gardening.

"I love volunteering. Being a part of the Master Gardener program has allowed me to volunteer with projects centered around what I am most passionate about vegetable gardening and serving in the community. I mostly enjoy doing volunteer work that is supportive and behind the scenes. I plan to continue helping at Shiloh Field and hope to get involved with the plant sale project.

"The Master Gardener Program offers top-notch training and numerous ways to get involved in our surrounding community. I want to give a big thank you to Kim Wootton and her team! The training classes were well organized, educational, and fun!!"



Melissa's Vegetable Garden



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

We're pleased to welcome Suzanne Tuttle, who will present "Inviting the Prairie into Your Home Garden."

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 Member's Gardens



Naked Ladies Lily
Colchicum



Brazilian Rock Rose
Pavonia lasiopetala



Fall Obidient Plant
Physostegia virginiana



Artichoke
Cynara cardunculus var. *scolymus*



Plant of the Month - Coral Bells

BY SUE MURRAY

Coral Bells or alumroot is the common name of *Heuchera*, a genus of largely evergreen and semi-evergreen perennial plants. *Heuchera*, correctly pronounced HOY-ker-ah are native to North America, and you can find them from Florida to California and north to Canada. They are named for Johan Heinrich Huecher, 1677-1747, a German botanist and professor of medicine.

There are about 55 different species often found in woodland or mountainous terrain, growing on well-drained slopes. If you are walking in the woods, you may not even notice them as they are low to the ground and blend in with their surroundings. Only the wispy spikes of floral blooms studded with tiny bells may attract your attention. Coral Bells are a true U.S. native. Early explorers exported back to Europe in the 1600s. From its early "roots," it has evolved and now become a favorite of North Texas gardeners.



Coral Bells (*Heuchera*)

Now widely available in Texas nurseries, growing Coral Bells (*Heuchera sanguinea*) can be challenging. Harsh sun, baking temperatures, and less than ideal soil are conditions far removed from the woodland environment. But Texas cultivars, derived from the native perennials, are tough beauties. Some gardeners prefer to grow them in pots, while others use amended soil and plant them in the shade to partial shade. Although relatively drought tolerant once established, the plants will need regular irrigation during the summer. Plant them about 1 -2 feet apart in the spring or fall. In addition to the white, pink, or red flowers that attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, gardeners are fans of the variations of colorful heart-shaped foliage. This foliage often changes colors depending on variations in light and temperature throughout the year. The leaf color tends to deepen in winter but will fade with too much heat, sun, or water. Coral Bells require little maintenance. Medium water, well-drained loam or sandy soil, and not too much sun will lead them to grow up to 1.5 feet high and spread. They are often used in borders and bloom from late spring to early fall. Another plus is that they are pest and disease resistant and make beautiful cut flowers. To prolong the blooms, deadhead the old blossoms.

Plant of the Month - Coral Bells (Cont.)

The Senior Director of Gardens at the Dallas Arboretum recommends cultivars and hybrids of *H. villosa*, also known as hairy alumroot. Although native to regions east of the Mississippi, these plants are hardy, will tolerate dryness, love shade, and work well with other trees and plants, particularly hostas. Some favorite cultivars include Brownies, Caramel, Citronelle, Georgia Peach, and Mocha.

Propagate Coral Bell by division, seed, or cuttings. The root ball may be divided in the spring, so the plant does not become too woody. Plant seeds or use leaf cuttings rooted in sand in the fall. There are not too many plants known for their colorful, attractive leaves in addition to their flowers, but Coral Bells are certainly one to consider adding to your landscape. The fascinating foliage will pique your interest, and the delicate flowers will delight you.

Resources

USDA, NRCS - The PLANTS Database, (06/18/2022). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC
<https://plants.usda.gov/home>

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

Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)
<https://fwbg.org/research/>

Texas Smartscape
<http://www.txsmartscape.com/>

Texas Gardener
<https://www.texasgardener.com/>

Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden
<https://www.dallasarboretum.org/>



Photo Courtesy Wynn Anderson, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/species.php?id_plant=hesa3

Heuchera sanguinea blossom



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>

Cover Crops

BY JUDY ALLEN

Most of the information you come across speaks of cover crops and their use on the farm. Recently, however, gardeners, homesteaders, and environmentalists have discovered cover crops and their benefits in a more urban setting. As we see more extreme weather and a changing climate, cover crops will increase in their value to the city dweller.

Cover crops are beneficial in many ways:

- They help prevent weeds. As they cover the soil, weeds are weakened.
- Legumes add nitrogen to soils.
- They help prevent erosion, slowing down any fast-running water from rains or irrigation.
- As cover crops bloom, they attract and feed our necessary pollinators.

Cover crops are planted by seed. Some are tilled into the soil up to 1.5 inches deep. There are many types of cover crops. Here are a few that have proven to work well in our Texas climate.

Buckwheat has a short root structure. This makes it a great choice to use in raised garden beds. You can easily pull it up and leave it on top when you want to plant your vegetables or flowers. You can also do a "chop and drop" where you cut it an inch high or so and just leave it all on top of the bed as a mulch. This method continues to provide nitrogen to the soil. Buckwheat is not frost tolerant. However, it does re-seed if you let it remain after it flowers. I always let mine flower and go to seed. The bees and beneficial insects love it. I do have buckwheat that reseeds every year in unusual places, but it pulls up easily if I don't like its location.



Buckwheat, Koba-chan, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Buckwheat
is a great choice to use in raised garden beds.

Crimson clover is a legume, which means it can mine nitrogen from the air and return it to your soils. It can also retrieve nitrogen from the soil, making it available to your plants. Plant clovers in the fall for best results. They need continuous moisture to germinate. They will quickly cover an area after germination. Their flowers are quite attractive to pollinators. Most clovers need to be replanted each year. They work best when cut low to the ground after they die back in the summer. They make a tremendous mulch when left in place.

Cover Crops (Cont.)

Legumes such as cow peas are a great summer crop. They are not frost hardy and should be planted after your last spring frost. They will make a full cover all through the summer.



Crimson Clover, KENPEI, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Crimson Clover



Cereal Rye, LSDSL, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Cereal Rye

Cereal Rye (winter rye) is a tough cover crop. It has deep roots and is winter hardy. Rye should be sown in the garden around 6 weeks before your first fall frost. You can, however, sow as late as the week of a projected frost. A mowing or 2 is recommended when rye is 12 inches tall. When all this residue is left in place, it will decompose, further enhancing your soil. Rye is more difficult to remove so a "chop and drop" method would work best for any of the rye cover crops. Rye is better used in an inground bed so that a mower can be used.

All these cover crops are beneficial for protecting your soils from erosion and weather damage. Even our much-desired rain has a negative effect when hitting bare soils. Cover crops act as a protective mulch and add nitrogen back into the garden. When used in the fall, they have time to reinvigorate our gardens before our next spring plantings.

For more in-depth information please check out the included resource links:

The University of Vermont, "Winter Rye: A Reliable Cover Crop"

<https://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/factsheets/winterrye.html>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

https://aggieclover.tamu.edu/planting_guide/test/

<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/01/13/cover-crops-play-important-role-in-resilient-agriculture/>

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

<https://www.sare.org/publications/managing-cover-crops-profitably/nonlegume-cover-crops/buckwheat/>



Want to Become a Master Gardener? Now Recruiting For Our 2023 Intern Class

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

Do you love gardening?

Are you interested in broadening your knowledge of sustainable gardening?

Do you like making friends and doing things with others who share your interests?

Is serving your community important to you?

You may ask yourself these questions if you're considering becoming a Master Gardener. And, if you answer yes to any of these questions, becoming a Master Gardener is quite likely right for you.

The benefits of volunteer service with the Master Gardener program are multifold. Studies have found Master Gardeners experience a significant improvement in quality of life after becoming part of the program. Interaction with nature improves mental health, reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, and reduces muscle tensions. Master Gardeners can socialize regularly with people who share their passion, add to their gardening knowledge, and share their experiences to improve their communities (Boyer, Waliczek and Zajicek).

Texas A&M AgriLife sponsors and governs the Texas Master Gardener Program. As one of Texas' two land-grant universities, Texas A&M University has three educational missions:

- Teaching and training degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students at eleven university campuses.
- Research at the TAMU campuses and at dozens of research centers across the state in the areas of climate and the environment, computation and information, education and outreach, energy, food and water, global health and security, healthcare, infrastructure, materials, and manufacturing, society, policy, and the economy.
- Extension through 250 county Extension offices and 900 professional educators. AgriLife Extension offers programs to Texas residents in agriculture and natural resources, community economic development, family and community health, and volunteer programs.

Texas Master Gardener volunteers receive in-depth horticultural training through each county's Master Gardener program. In return, they serve their community through the county Extension office by offering educational programs and projects focused on sustainable gardening (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension).

Want to Become a Master Gardener? - (Cont.)

Denton County Master Gardener interns receive 70 hours of instruction during the intern classes taught by some of the best horticultural educators in Texas. The class subjects include:

- Plant Development & Plant Pathology
- Soil & Soil Nutrition
- Texas Trees & Native Plants
- Edible Gardening
- Rainwater Harvesting & Irrigation
- Earth-Kind® and Fire-Wise Landscaping
- Turfgrass Culture
- Plant Propagation
- Entomology & Integrated Pest Management
- Mycology, Composting & Vermiculture

At its core, the Master Gardener program is a public service program. First-year Interns are required to volunteer a minimum of 70 hours to projects sponsored and supervised by DCMGA. A wide variety of projects are available for volunteer service, including annual events (Plant Sale and Garden Tour), youth and children's programs, community gardens, landscape design, public speaking, community partnership programs, special interest groups, beautification projects, and administrative committees.

Become a member of a highly educated corps of volunteers who have earned the title "Master Gardener" and improve the quality of life for yourself and your community. To learn more about the DCMGA intern program, application process, and informational meetings, visit our website at <https://dcmga.com/>.

The DCMGA Class Planning Team and members look forward to meeting you and sharing why we're so enthusiastic about this wonderful program!

References

Boyer, R., Waliczek, T., & Zajicek, J. (2002, January). The Master Gardener Program: Do Benefits of the Program Go Beyond Improving the Horticultural Knowledge of the Participants? Retrieved July 31, 2022, from The American Society for Horticultural Science: <https://journals.ashs.org/horttech/view/journals/horttech/12/3/article-p432.xml>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. (n.d.). Retrieved July 31, 2022, from <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/>

Want to Become a Master Gardener? - (Cont.)



Plant Sale



FMFB Community Garden



Garden Tour



Denton County Historical Park



Shiloh Field Garden



Science With Attitude (SWAt)

There are many Master Gardener projects available
for volunteer service.





A Few of Our Favorite Reads

How Not to Kill Your Houseplant: Survival Tips for the Horticulturally Challenged by Veronica Peerless. DK; Illustrated edition (August 15, 2017).

Raised-Bed Gardening for Beginners: Everything You Need to Know to Start and Sustain a Thriving Garden by Tammy Wylie. Rockridge Press; Illustrated edition (July 9, 2019).

Encyclopedia of Herbal Medicine: 550 Herbs and Remedies for Common Ailments by Andrew Chevallier. DK; 3rd edition (July 5, 2016).

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Donations to DCMGA through Amazon Smile the first quarter of 2022 totaled \$109.27!

Thanks for supporting DCMGA!

Garden Visits

Enjoy History and Horticulture in Weatherford's Chandor Gardens

BY PAT PAPE

Editor's Note: In 2020 we began highlighting local gardens in response to the need for social distancing and restricted travel. Restrictions have eased, but interest in local (and not so local) gardens is alive and well. So we continue to highlight gardens that our members visit.

Spring and summer are the traditional seasons for plant lovers to peruse public and private gardens. But there is much to be said for fall garden visits to Weatherford's charming Chandor Gardens when temperatures are cooler and crowds are small.

Peaceful Chandor is a series of gardens spread across 3.5 acres of a former cow pasture. Most sit under a tree canopy surrounded by small expanses of open green lawn. Enhanced with Chinese-style architecture, fountains, waterways and ponds, the property offers several tranquil places to pause and ponder the unique history of this horticultural gem.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Pat Pape

The garden was created by Douglas Chandor, a British portrait artist, who painted the rich and famous, including Winston Churchill, Queen Elizabeth II, Franklin Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt and Edward VIII, the king who gave up the throne to marry a twice-divorced American. Five of Douglas' works are exhibited in the Smithsonian's Nation Portrait Gallery.

Early 20th century Americans were crazy for all things British, and in 1926, Chandor sailed to the U.S. to establish a New York studio. He soon secured many lucrative commissions, and in 1930, his income was \$50,000 or about \$800,000-plus in today's money. One sitter was Mary Duke Biddle, heiress to the Duke tobacco and energy fortune. She took a shine to the young Brit, and during a party at Biddle's New York apartment, Douglas was introduced to Ina Kuteman Hill, the 40-year-old daughter of a wealthy Weatherford, Texas, lawyer. Despite

growing up in the rural southwest, Ina was a worldly woman. She'd attended a New York finishing school and traveled extensively to distant climes, including Europe and Tahiti. She'd also been divorced twice, which in the '20s gave her a certain notoriety.

Chandor Gardens (Cont.)

After the pair married in 1934, they made their home in Weatherford, where Douglas would construct a studio-plus-living-quarters and a garden on land that was a wedding gift from Ina's mother. He dubbed the garden "White Shadows," and it was something of a curiosity in Weatherford, where women – not men – typically did the gardening. As Douglas reportedly said, "Men would live longer if they did a little gardening, even if it is trifle harder than golf, hunting or fishing."

The Depression years were tough for everyone. Douglas received few portrait commissions, and the couple lived on Ina's family money. Douglas used that period to perfect his garden, following the contours of the land and recording his accomplishments in a series of journals.



One thing the Depression did provide was cheap labor to move rock, grade the site and haul in topsoil. But Douglas did much of the work with his own hands, planting full-sized boxwoods that were purchased from his neighbors' yards and adding mature native trees. One early project was a rectangular fishpond featuring water lilies surrounded by cast-stone pixies and monocled gnomes. He later added other water features, flagstone walkways, two pagodas and a "mountain" with a grotto carved into the base. Huge rocks – some weighing 30,000 pounds – were brought in with the aid of old oil-field equipment. A bowling green for playing bocce or croquet was added in the '40s. It's now the site of most weddings held on the property.

Chandor Gardens (Cont.)

Douglas was detail-oriented and knew what he wanted. When he failed to find the exact tiles needed to decorate his "dragon fountain," he fired them himself in his kitchen oven. When it came to yard art, Douglas did not skimp. He strategically placed antique Asian bronzes, marble statues, and small gargoyles throughout White Shadows, along with plants that the locals found exotic. For several years, beds of annual and perennial flowers were a major garden feature, but eventually, the garden focused more on specimen plants, evergreens, and small shrubs. The result is an English garden with an Asian flare, which still appears much as it did during Douglas' lifetime.

After suffering a stroke, Douglas died in January 1953. Ina committed to preserving his legacy and renamed the project Chandor Gardens. It remained open to the public until her death in 1978, and then lay neglected for 16 years. In 1994, businessman Chuck Bradford and his wife Melody purchased the property and launched a massive restoration. Soon, the Bradfords were hosting weddings and garden tours and sharing the garden with the public. The City of Weatherford acquired Chandor Gardens in 2002. Today, the property is on the National Registry of Historic Places, and Parker County Master Gardeners are actively involved in maintaining its beauty.

Although he'd captured the images of many famous people on canvas, Douglas told Ina that "God has a purpose for every human being, and the purpose he had for me was building this garden." When she argued that God's gift to him was his talent for painting, he responded, "No, Ina. God gave me the talent to paint so I could sell the paintings and get money to build the garden."

Chandor Gardens, 711 W Lee Ave, Weatherford, TX 76086

Phone: (817) 613-1700 or (817) 598-4334

Open Monday–Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm and Sunday, noon to 4 pm

Closed on major holidays

Admission: Adults: \$5. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. When paying the admission, ask for the garden guide handout.



Divide and Transplant Your Iris In September

The best time to divide and / or transplant iris is in September. Before digging the rhizomes (roots), cut the leaves back to about one-third their full height. Dig under a clump of rhizomes, and lift out the whole clump at once.

Cut the rhizomes into sections, containing one to three buds. Each division must have at least one growing point (or fan of leaves), a few inches of healthy rhizome, and a number of well-developed roots.

When dividing and replanting, use only the strong, healthy rhizomes for planting. Discard diseased and stunted plants. Disinfect pruning shears if you accidentally cut into a diseased rhizome using a solution of one part household bleach to nine parts water.

Plant iris in a sunny, well-drained area with good circulation around the plants to prevent diseases. If the soil is poorly drained, consider using raised beds, since iris will rot in poorly drained soils.

After planting, water the bed thoroughly to settle the soil around the roots. Usually little additional moisture is required unless a prolonged drought occurs.



Info about dividing iris can be found at this link:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/lowers/iris.html>

Excerpted from "Plan Now to Divide and Transplant Your Iris in September" by Patty Cooke, July 2018 issue *The Root*.



NORTH TEXAS GARDENING

Denton County Master Gardener Association



German Iris (*Iris x germanica*)



Clump of Iris rhizomes ready to divide



Iris rhizome and roots



Iris douglasiana

Dividing Iris Tips

September is the best time of year to plant or divide and transplant iris rhizomes.

- Iris should be thinned every 2-3 years
- Cut the leaves back to 1/3 of their full height.
- Select only firm, whitish-colored rhizomes to divide.
- Cut the healthy rhizomes into sections containing 1 to 3 buds, at least one fan of leaves, and a few inches of well-developed roots.
- Plant the rhizomes very shallow, no more than 1/4 inch below the surface of the soil.

Links for further research:

Excellent information with photos to illustrate planting method

<https://www.almanac.com/how-divide-bearded-irises-pictures>

Aggie Horticulture

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/flowers/iris.html>

Travis County AgriLife Extension, "Iris Dividing Time"

<https://travis-tx.tamu.edu/2020/09/24/iris-dividing-time-by-yvonne-schneider/>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, "Louisiana Iris"

[https://aggie-](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/2005/mar05/LaIris.html)

[horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/2005/mar05/LaIris.html](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/2005/mar05/LaIris.html)





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

September 14, 2022. 10:00 am to Noon

Open To The Public

"Inviting the Prairie Into Your Home Garden"
presented by Suzanne Tuttle

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/tZlIdOGtqTkrEt1q1-To94bPowY3jMo22isK>

DCMGA Members

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

Resources & Education Opportunities For Master Gardeners and the Community We Serve

Science-based knowledge on a variety of topics.

New!

Home Grown Lecture Series

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Virtual.

September 1, 2022 – All About Mint – Brandi Keller,
County Extension Agent-Horticulture

October 6, 2022 – Proper Pruning in the Landscape
– Paul Winski, County Extension Agent-Commercial
Horticulture

Registration Required:

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

Fall Into Gardening

Learn to Grow and Manage the Flow.

Saturday, September 17, 2022

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Registration Required

<https://form.jotform.com/221653780034149>

Box Lunch Available to Order when you Register

Free Classes by Master Gardeners

8:00–10am	Rainwater + Watershed
10:30am–12pm	Soil + Soil Nutrition
1–2:30pm	Texas Native Plants
3–4:30pm	Vegetable Gardening

Hands-on Learning Activities, Garden Tours

Location: Global Spheres Center, 7801 S Interstate
35, Corinth, TX

**For More Events – Visit
[the DCMGA Upcoming Events Page](https://dcmga.com/)**

**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

Q: It's been so hot that I haven't really done anything except trying to keep my grass alive all summer. Now I am overwhelmed! What should I be doing now?

A: Watch for grubs, chinch bugs and fire ants. Treat only as needed.

Keep weeding, being careful not to let the weeds go to seed. Avoid weed killers, as most are not recommended with temperatures above 85° F.

Do not apply fertilizer to drought-stressed turf.

Fruit and nut trees need extra water now to start creating fruit buds for the next year.

Water trees deeply and

Slowly.

Remove spent blooms and seed pods from Crape Myrtles for continued bloom.

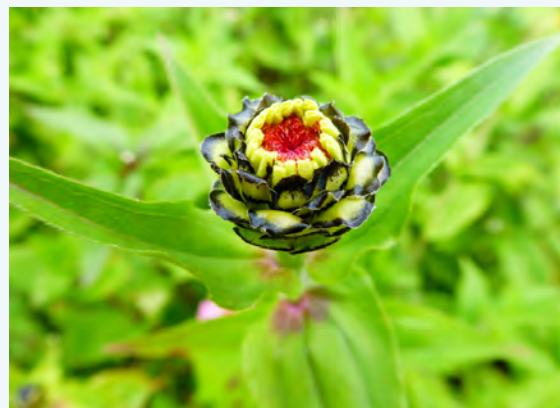
Fall webworms start to appear this month. Use a blast of water or pole pruner to break open the webbing, allowing birds and wasps access to the caterpillars.



Prune roses back by one-third to encourage fall blooms. Re-blooming heritage roses may just need a light pruning. After pruning, apply fertilizer and water thoroughly for any excellent crop this October.

Cut back salvias, Mexican mint marigold, chrysanthemums, and obedient plant before buds begin to form, usually by September 1, to keep them compact and reduce the need for staking.

Re-plant warm-season annuals, such as marigolds, zinnias (best bought as budding not blooming plants for fall), angelonia, scaveola fanflower, and periwinkles for color through November. Start fall annuals such as celosia, ornamental peppers, firebush, copper plants, and Joseph's coat.



Budding zinnia plants work best for planting in the fall

Sow wildflower seed, especially bluebonnets. Soil preparation is not necessary; most seeds can be broadcast over undisturbed soil, however, seed to soil contact is essential. If sowing wildflower seed in turf area, make sure to scalp the grass as low as possible with a mower. Water the area thoroughly but gently every three days for about three weeks. A low nitrogen fertilizer can be used at the time of planting if the soil lacks nutrients. Fertilizing after plants are established will result in larger amounts of foliage at the expense of blooms.

Check out these wildflower suggestions from Wildflower.org:

[Spring blooming wildflowers to sow in the fall.](#)

Stay hydrated when working outside and take advantage of slightly cooler morning and evening temperatures!

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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.

SEPTEMBER TURF TIP

TIME TO APPLY PRE-EMERGENT TO YOUR NORTH TEXAS LAWN

MID-SEPTEMBER THROUGH EARLY OCTOBER
THERE'S A SPECIFIC TIME-FRAME TO APPLY



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

STOP THE GROWTH OF COOL WEATHER WEEDS
ONCE THE COLD WEATHER USHERS IN WITH RAIN AND A COLD FRONT - IT'S TOO LATE

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



REMEMBER, NOW IS THE TIME
DON'T MISS THIS BRIEF WINDOW FOR TREATMENT



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

WHAT TO APPLY
CORN GLUTEN MEAL OR BENEFIN?

Corn Gluten Meal can have a success of up to 60% if it does not receive rain for five to seven days after it is applied. Benefin will only be effective if applied in the short time frame from mid-September to October. To read more about these options, visit <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Preemergence-Herbicide-Guide-4.pdf>



CHECK OUT MORE INFORMATION
ANOTHER RESOURCE FROM TEXAS A&M



To learn more about weed identification and treatment for cool and warm season weeds, be sure to visit http://publications.tamu.edu/TURF_LANDSCAPE/PUB_turf_Herbicide%20for%20Weed%20Control%20in%20Turfgrass.pdf

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Questions? Contact our Help Desk

email: master.gardener@dentoncounty.com

PHONE: 940.349.2892




DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION,
UPPER TRINITY REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT &
BEULAH ACRES PRESENT

FALL INTO GARDENING

LEARN TO GROW
&
MANAGE THE FLOW

Saturday, September 17th, 2022

8 am-4:30 pm

Global Spheres Center
7801 S I35, Corinth

FREE CLASSES BY MASTER GARDENERS

8:00-10a Rainwater+Watershed

10:30a-12p Soil+Soil Nutrition

1-2:30p Texas Native Plants

3-4:30p Vegetable Gardening

HANDS-ON LEARNING ACTIVITIES

GARDEN TOURS

Box lunch available to order.



SCAN THIS CODE
OR GO TO [DCMGA.COM](https://dcmga.com)
TO REGISTER



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



JOIN US TO LEARN MORE

General Meeting & Program
October 12, 2022, 10 am-noon
&

2023 Intern Informational Meeting
October 14, 2022, 10 am-noon

Both at the Global Spheres Center
7801 S I-35, Corinth



Scan the QR code or go to
dcmga.com/become-a-master-gardener for details & to apply

Now Recruiting for Our
2023 Intern Class

Want to Be a Master Gardener?

Online Applications
Available Aug 15 - Oct 20 at
dcmga.com

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.

What's Growing On

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Upcoming Events

September 9	Garden Art 9-10 am . Presented by Charlotte Canion. Denton Senior Center.
September 10	Collecting & Saving Seeds 10:30-11:30 am. Presented by Cheryl Huckabee. Carrollton Public Library.
September 14	General Meeting & Program 10 am-noon. Business meeting & program "Inviting the Prairie into Your Home Garden" presented by Suzanne Tuttle, Global Spheres Center, Corinth. Registration required.
September 15	KLB Garden Secrets Series: Plant Propagation 6-7 pm . Presented by Sue Newhouse in partnership with Keep Lewisville Beautiful. Lewisville Grand Theater, Lewisville.
September 17	Fall Into Gardening: Learn to Grow & Manage the Flow 8 am- 4:30 pm. Presented in partnership with Upper Trinity Water District & Beulah Acres. Global Spheres Center, Corinth. Registration required.
October 12	General Meeting & Program 10 am-noon. Business meeting & program "Direct Marketing of Commercial Horticulture Products", presented by Laura Miller. Global Spheres Center, Corinth. Registration required.
October 14	Starting Plants from Seeds 3-4pm. Presented by Cheryl Huckabee. Lewisville Public Library, Lewisville.
October 15	Permanent Garden Class 8 am-5 pm. Presented in partnership with Beulah Acres Agroforest, Global Spheres Center, Corinth. Registration required.
October 20	KLB Garden Secrets Series: Pollinator & Butterfly Gardens 6-7 pm . Presented by Liz Moyer in partnership with Keep Lewisville Beautiful. Lewisville Grand Theater, Lewisville.
October 21	Fall Gardening & Spring Bulbs 4-5 pm. Presented by Cheryl Huckabee. Sanger Public Library.

For detailed information: dcmga.com/upcoming-events

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TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Denton County



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

September 14 DCMGA General Meeting, Global Spheres Center (& Virtual) - Program: "Inviting the Prairie Into Your Home Garden"

September 17 Fall Into Gardening, Global Spheres Center
Registration Required (see flyer)

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Content

Submission deadline for the October edition of *The Root* is Thursday, September 15.

Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Editor Karen Gibson or Communications Director Cheryl Huckabee at dcmga.communications@gmail.com.

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

<https://dcmga.com>