



Denton County Master  
Gardener Association



# THE ROOT

Grow  
With  
Us 



## 35 YEARS AND STILL GROWING



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# Buds From The Board

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE, PRESIDENT

As April blossoms across North Texas, gardeners eagerly anticipate warmer temperatures and longer days nurturing green spaces. This time of renewed energy and vibrant growth in our gardens is a time of joy. In this month's issue of The Root, we'll explore the joys of gardening in April, from planting colorful blooms to tending to freshly sprouted vegetables.

It's time to roll up our sleeves and dive into a flurry of gardening activities! This month, we eagerly sow seeds for summer blooms and carefully tend to newly emerging plants. From planting vibrant annuals to mulching flower beds and keeping an eye out for pesky weeds, there's plenty to keep us busy in the garden.

As you gear up for outdoor gardening fun, why not sharpen your skills with our fantastic lineup of presentations and workshops this April? From mastering rainwater collection to exploring the secrets of container gardening and composting, we've got you covered! Join us for enlightening sessions on easy-care lawns, edible gardening, growing blackberries, and choosing the right plants. Don't miss out—check out our [Event Calendar](#) and enrich your gardening journey today!

Get ready for an exciting lineup of gardening events guaranteed to inspire and educate! Join us at our [Monthly Meeting and Program on April 10th](#) at Global Spheres Center for an illuminating presentation, “Wicked Plants,” by Dallas County Master Gardener Kevin Burns. Then, mark your calendars for our [Spring Plant Sale on May 4th](#), where you'll find a diverse selection of native and adaptive plants and no-fuss roses. Don't miss our [Annual Garden Tour on May 11th](#), featuring a variety of gardens, and learn from Master Gardeners about keyhole gardening, pollinators, and wildlife. It's sure to be a blooming good time!

Let's embrace the warmer days and watch our gardens burst into life! We hope you'll join us as we delve into the delights of spring gardening in our beloved Texan landscape!



*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>



## 2024 Garden Tour Preview

*Flower Mound, Double Oak = Four Gardens + One Community Garden*

*May 11, 2024*

*Keyhole Gardening, Mushrooms/Mycology, Erosion Control/Drainage, Drought-Tolerant Shade Plants, Design within an HOA, Oak Trees, Native Plant Ecosystems, Pollinators, and Wildlife.*

[Purchase your tickets now!](#)

### **Century Oak Garden**

Century Oak, named after its nearly 200 year old Post Oak, features seven types of oak trees, an important part of this ecosystem and a major educational focus for the property. Growing herbs, and their culinary qualities, are also an important theme running throughout the property.





## 2024 Garden Tour Preview *Century Oak Garden (Cont.)*

Century Oak Garden is a bit of a laboratory, where native and adaptive plants are constantly added to the native oaks to see what works best to build a healthy ecosystem for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. The numbers of different butterflies, birds, and bees has increased each season over the last 8 years and it is not uncommon to see different types of lizards, rabbits, and squirrels running around the yard.



Come experience Century Oak Garden, a patch of rural in the center of the city. Sit back, relax, and listen to the sights and sounds of nature all while learning how the property went from being wildlife-less to one teeming with life.



## Herbal Branch

BY SHERRI URSINI

Herbal Branch has opened a new door to the apothecary of learning herbs. We are cultivating new and old ways of using our trusty age-old friends, Herbs. We have a renewed interest in these old friends and they are welcome here.

Herbal Branch will be digging into the history of growing herbs and sharing “what has been working in our gardens.” Our minds are filled with creativity. The demonstration options are endless. Our learning and understanding of herbs have been sparked by each other.

Without even knowing, we have created a group that engages in restoring our mental health. Whether it is making a calendula/comfrey balm, creating delectable culinary dishes, or demonstrating how to divide lemon grass, there is something for everyone. Jumping in and participating in field trips like the Botanical Research Institute of Texas or Lavender Ridge Farms has been an educational blast!

At our meetings, we have time to learn, time to encourage, and time to engage with our fellow Gardeners.

Partnering with some of the other DCMGA projects in Denton County is one of our goals. We envision planting herbs, serving the community with demonstrations, and encouraging our seniors with spring teas. Having a kinship and supporting other groups with herbs is something we would like to accomplish. Herbal Branch already has events on the calendar. We have a Spring Tea with our friends at Fair Oaks planned, where we will discuss herbs and help set our friends up for success.

Our very own Kathy Rainey has graciously allowed Herbal Branch to add to a Gardenscapers project at The Grove. Creating an avenue to engage with the community is important.

We will have information tables at the Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show held June 15, 2024, at the North Texas Fairgrounds in Denton, and also at Fall into Gardening (usually held in August).





## Herbal Branch (Cont.)

### *Things to Come*

Herbal Branch will tour and hear about the many roses at the Farmers Branch Rose Garden from Master Gardener Sharrie Ely. She is the President of the Dallas Area Rose Society and a Consulting Rosarian with the American Rose Society. Sharrie is a wealth of knowledge! There are four large established gardens to enjoy and explore. Visitors can experience the Bird Sanctuary, Butterfly Garden, Rose and Display Garden, Ruthan Rogers Garden, and West Rose Garden. We will touch on the benefits of roses as well. There is so much to explore! This is scheduled for Thursday, April 11th at 10:00 a.m. and is open to the public.

The Lavender Ridge opportunity will happen on May 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Herbal Branch is breaking new ground and doing things it has never done before. We are digging deep into the knowledge we gain from AgriLife and each other and, in return, doing so for the community. Everyone is welcome at Herbal Branch!

*For more information or to be added to the Herbal Branch mailing list,  
DCMGA members should contact Sherri Ursini via VMS.*



*You're Invited*

April 2024, Monthly General Meeting & Program  
"Wicked Plants"



Don't miss Dallas County Master Gardener Kevin Burns' captivating presentation! Learn about fascinating plants—deadly, illegal, intoxicating, dangerous, painful, or invasive. With engaging stories, vivid photos, and essential facts, Kevin will help us recognize these plants and avoid them in our landscapes. Join us for an enlightening session you won't forget!

April 10, 2024, 10 am  
Global Spheres Center  
7801 S Interstate 35E, Corinth, TX 76210



DCMGA Garden Tour - May 11, 2024  
[Purchase Your Tickets Now!](#)



## Plant of the Month - Bougainvillea *The Boogieman*

BY MARTHA CANTRELL

I will start off with a disclaimer – The Bougainvillea Plant is by far my favorite plant and has been for a very long time. I call it the Boogieman because I can never remember how to spell Bougainvillea, no it's Boogainveia, no that's not it either. Anyway, I hold a very high opinion of this gorgeous plant.

There are several varieties which differ by size, leaf and bract colors. I slipped a new word in I should define – BRACT. As you can see in the picture, there are 3 beautiful 'petals' that most people assume is the flower, some calling it the paper flower (which is another common name for the Bougainvillea). But it is actually called the Bract. The bracts are actually leaves whose main function is to protect the flower, which is the tiny, plain, white flower in the middle. Because the flower isn't a huge pollinator attractor, the bracts also help with that because of their vibrant colors.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Martha Cantrell

### **The Bracts Are Actually Leaves**

Like some stunning movie villains who hide their evil behind a gorgeous head of long, blonde waves, the Boogieman hides his long, evil thorns behind his beautiful foliage. This helps him be almost pest-free and requires his tender to wear heavy gloves when pruning him. Pruning a Bougainvillea will help you train it to stay bushy, climb a trellis or stay the size appropriate for the container it lives in. I prefer to let it grow naturally which makes for a bloody challenge when it's time to move inside for the winter.

The Bougainvillea is not only beautiful but loves North Texas summers, unlike me. And I guess another reason why I love it is that it thrives on neglect. It blooms best when it is dry and rootbound. It LOVES our blistering summer sun but doesn't really care for our cold winters. So you either treat it like a beautiful, incredible annual, or bring it inside like I do. I pamper mine under grow lights and keep it warm with a space heater with a thermostat. It will drop all its leaves and go dormant even inside under grow lights. But soon you will see those beautiful tiny baby leaves peek out and you know your dear Boogieman is back!



## Bougainvillea (Cont.)

Below is a picture of my Beauford when he was a baby. He is now 3 years old and stretches 7' across and happily bites people from a hanging basket. I moved him into his forever pot just after this picture was taken. He had lived in that pot for 2 years.



PLEASE grow one (or five) of these beautiful, incredible plants. They will bring much joy and beauty into your life. But do remember, when you hear a gardener say their garden contains their 'blood, sweat and tears', the blood may have come from a BOOGIEMAN!

### Resource

*Better Homes & Gardens*, "How to Plant and Grow Bougainvillea"

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/vine/bougainvillea/>



## What to Plant in April

- Warm weather crops into garden beds
- Seeds outdoors for beans, squash, okra, cucumbers, and melons
- All types of trees, shrubs, and perennials
- Roses and summer flowering shrubs
- Fertilize warm-weather grasses with nitrogen
- Fertilize roses if not done in March

For more monthly tips:

<https://www.dcmga.com/maintain-and-solve-problems/maintain/monthly-gardening-tips/>

### TOP GARDENING TIPS

## April

Plant warm season herbs & vegetables.

Plant warm season flowering annuals & perennials.  
Prune spring-blooming shrubs & vines after flowering.  
Prune shade trees as needed except Live or Red Oaks.  
Allow spring bulb foliage to die & dry before removal.

**#DCMGA #GROWWITHUS**

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

### DCMGA Members & Interns

*Plan Your Week (PYW) has the most current VS/CE Opportunities  
and is sent via VMS every Friday.*



# In The Veggie Patch: Cabbage

BY IVY SUMMERFIELD

## Benefits

Cabbage is dense and leafy in texture. Color variations range from shades of green to red, depending upon the variety. It can be eaten raw or cooked. This Cool Season Cole crop is high in vitamin C and fiber. Cabbage is a perfect vegetable for your spring garden. In the fall, extend your season by directly sowing cabbage seeds into the garden.

## Plant Requirements

Soil: Rich, organic; pH 6 - 7; well-draining

Light: Full sun, 6-8 hours/day

Temperature: 50-70°F (benefits from shade in high heat)

Moisture: Consistent moisture, 1" water per week if no rainfall



## Varieties to grow in North Texas

Planting the correct variety of cabbage at the correct time will yield a successful harvest. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension recommends these varieties for North Texas:

Cabbage Variety	Days to Maturity	Light	Spacing	Height inches	Sow Method
Early Jersey Wakefield	90-110	Full sun	12-18	9-15	Indoors
Golden Acre	65-75	Sun/S H	18-24	12	Indoors
Green Boy	80-85	sun	18-24	12	In or out
Market Prize	80-95	Sun	18	12	Indoors
Rio Verde	85	Sun	18-24	9-13	In/ out
Ruby Bell	78	Sun	18-24	8-12	Outdoors
Savory King	80	Sun	12-18	8-12	In/Out

Chinese Cabbage Variety	Days to Maturity	Light	Spacing	Height inches	Sowing Method
Brisk Green - Pak Choi	50	Sun	6-12	12	In/Outdoors
Jade Pagoda	65	Sun	6-12	12-14	Outdoors
Michihili	70	Sun	12	24	Outdoors
Monument	80	Sun	12	18	Outdoors

## In The Veggie Patch: Cabbage (Cont.)

### *Planting & Fertilizing*

Always test the soil of a new garden. Spread a light layer of aged compost to the soil each season and every 3-4 years retest your soil. Soil testing reports missing or excessive nutrients in your soil and recommends nutrients to add.

Read your seed package for planting recommendations and spacing requirements. If you purchased starter plants, plant them in the ground or raised bed to the level of their container. Provide loose well-draining planting soil. Once seeds are planted, cover with a light layer of mulch for weed suppression. Cabbage roots are shallow and competition with weed roots will adversely affect your yield. This mulch process is also recommended for purchased plants.

Fertilizing provides cabbage with the food it needs to grow. Once planted and you have 2-3 sets of true leaves, spread fertilizer around the outer edge of the plant so the roots will seek the food. A 10-20-10 fertilizer is recommended by Texas AgriLife Extension. You can choose organic options as well.

### *Pests*

Cabbage attracts a community of pests – aphids, flea beetles, cabbage loopers, cabbage worms, just to name a few. Before you decide to use a pesticide, read the label and do the research. For an organic approach, something as simple as spraying high-pressure water on the plant could remove the aphids or a solution of garlic juice might remove the unwanted pests. Contact your local extension office for more information.

### *Harvesting & Storage*

Seed packages include harvesting dates. A good rule of thumb is to harvest when cabbage is firm and softball-sized. Harvest by cutting the cabbage at the stem and removing unwanted leaves. Store unwashed cabbage in a plastic bag for one week in a refrigerator and once cut, store in a plastic bag for one to two days, according to the Nebraska Extension.

### *Resources*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, “Easy Gardening, Cole Crops”

<https://cdn-de.agrilife.org/extension/departments/hort/hort-pu-098/publications/files/HORT-PU-098-Easy-Gardening-Cole-Crops.pdf>

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Extension, “Nutrition Education Program (NEP)”

<https://food.unl.edu/NEP/NEP Documents/FruitVeg17.pdf>

“Cabbage,” <https://food.unl.edu/article/cabbage>





## Succulents - Part II

### *Soil Mix, Propagation, Varieties*

BY LEE ANN YATES

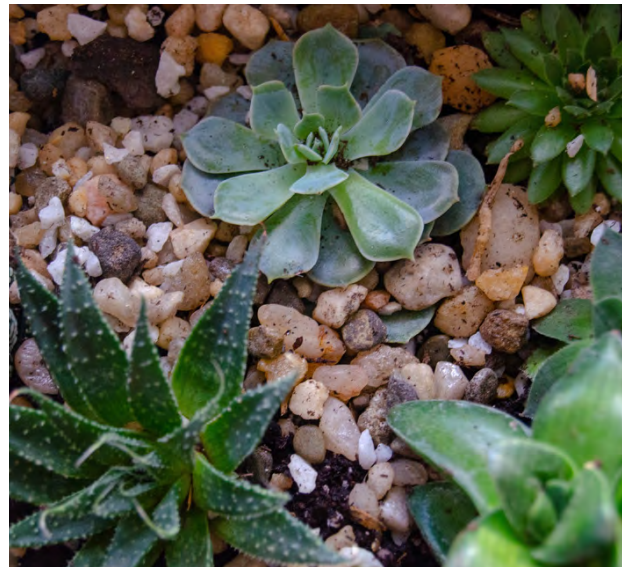
In the March 2024 issue, I discussed succulent care, including lighting, water (damp, not wet!), growth rate, and pests to watch for. If you missed that article, here's the link:

[Succulents - Part I, Light and Water.](#)

Now let's talk about what type of soil to use, succulent propagation, and discuss varieties of succulents you might like to grow.

### ***Soil***

In gardening, proper soil preparation is paramount. I talked with Carolyn Stoy, Project Manager for the DCMGAs Succulent Team about soil. Here is her advice. The best soil for succulents in pots will hold enough water for the plants to absorb what they need, but will still dry out quickly so roots won't rot. This means that we must do something that might be difficult – DO NOT add a lot of organic matter to your soil mix. (Crazy, right! Well, not for succulents!) Organic matter is added to help most plant soils retain moisture – a major No-nope-noppity-nope for succulents. Succulents need a grittier soil, so their soils often include sand, perlite, or pea gravel, even chicken grit, to create drainage and air pockets. Top dressing with sand, gravel, or rocks is also desirable to give a finished look to the plant and pot, but to also prevent compaction of soil and add even more drainage capability.



There are several “recipes” for succulent soil so, if you are inclined, you can make it yourself in whatever quantity you need. The common theme for any succulent soil is that the various component particles are of a consistent size. These chubby babies, to stay chubby and hydrated, need lean, well-drained soil that is porous enough for water to run nearly straight through it. There are different recipes to best suit where your succulent babies are going to live. Generally, indoor soil should have larger particle size, roughly 1/4” or 6 mm, while outdoor soil is made up of finer particles. If you choose to buy a commercial cactus/succulent soil mix, a good test to see if you are getting good soil is to just lift the bag. If it seems heavy for its size, it will have a good bit of sand in the mix and will probably be fine for growing your precious, fleshy babies.

## Succulents - Part II (Cont.)

When you repot succulents, remember they can tolerate tight quarters better than most plants, so repot really only as needed. Increase your pot size by only a couple of inches (or fingers-width) each time, but succulents can stay in their pot for quite a while due to their slow growth rate.

Carolyn shared several resources with me that I have included at the end of this article. My goodness what a wealth of knowledge we have to share!

### *Types of Succulents*

It's difficult to get into specific types of succulents in a short article, but here's a quick overview of the most popular. Sempervivum, Echeveria, Crassula, Euphorbia, and Haworthia families are the types we see most often in nurseries. These families include *many* individuals which can be further sub-divided into those which prefer to be outside and those which prefer to stay indoors. Do some research before delving deeply in Succulent-land!



Sempervivum, the hens-and-chicks cuties we all love, will *tolerate* slight frosts, but don't love the heat. Sempervivums and most Sedums thrive best as outdoor plants and can handle lots of indirect sun in summer and direct sun in winter, but protect them during our random Arctic blasts and prolonged periods of cold temperatures at night. Echeveria, Crassula, and Euphorbia do well in filtered sun or partial shade in the spring and fall outside. Echeveria doesn't mind a little heat, but will go dormant in summer blast furnace heat and drought conditions. They also won't make it through our winters outside. These are best grown in various size containers that can be easily moved indoors when needed. They look especially charming in portable fairy gardens.

Some rosette forms of succulents can, over time, get as big as a dinner plate! How exciting would it be to have GIANT succulents in your landscape or a bright window inside! If you're not into giants, there are several Sempervivums that will stay small rosettes. These Sempervivums and some Sedums do well when planted as wall art. Haworthia, such as Zebra plants, are best kept indoors. They all tend to go into a dormant phase when temperatures get too hot or it gets very dry.



## Succulents - Part II (Cont.)

### *Propagation*

Propagation can be most easily accomplished through dropped leaves and stem cuttings. It is not recommended to start succulents from seed as they often do not grow true to their “parent” and are difficult to germinate. Dropped leaf starts are the easiest way to propagate succulents successfully. Because succulents lose leaves easily just from being handled or moved around, it is simple to use those leaves to start new plants. If you try to cut or tear leaves off, it can be difficult to get all of the bits needed to grow roots.



Dampen soil in a shallow container with a squirt bottle – the soil should be damp, not wet. A clean take-out container works nicely. An important step to improve success rates is to allow the leaves to harden off, or dry out, for a few days to form a callus over the freshly opened end. This will lessen the chance of diseases setting in. After three or four days, set the leaves on top of the soil – plain potting soil works at this point – then gently press them down to make contact with the soil at that callus. This is where the roots will begin to form. Check the babies every couple of days and keep the soil damp but not wet. (Have I said, “not wet” enough times yet?) You should see new growth from the leaves in three to four weeks! When roots begin to form and the baby is big enough for you to handle, carefully move your new plant to its new home, this time filled with proper succulent soil. Eventually, the original leaf will die off.


Another simple method of propagation is to take stem cuttings from plants that need a trim. Again, it is crucial with this method to allow the cutting to form a callus on the cut end by letting it air dry for several days. It is a good idea to dip the callus in rooting hormone to help it along and then plant in a properly built well-draining soil that you keep damp. A spray bottle is ideal for watering succulents of any age. If the cut end does rot, it is easy to cut off the mushy part, allow it to harden again, then dip in rooting hormone and repot!

### *Research Your Succulents*

There is such a wide variety of succulents to choose from, information on growth habits, bloom times, cold hardiness, and dormancy season should be researched for each succulent you are considering. Research will lead you to succulents looking their best and perhaps blooming in the spring and fall as they are either coming out of or getting ready to go into dormancy.

## Succulents - Part II (Cont.)

Most succulents come from South Africa; however, in Texas, we typically see those originating in Mexico. A few years ago, Carolyn Tinner, DCMGA Member Emerita and one of our succulent-growers-extraordinaire, introduced me to the International Succulent Introductions program at Huntington Botanical Gardens in California. Each year they introduce several new varieties of succulents – and WE CAN ORDER FROM THEM!



*Pick one of the following recipes to try mixing your own succulent soil. They vary in number of ingredients and price, but all are from reputable sources that specialize in succulents.*

**Austin Cactus and Succulent Society 1:1  
(organic to inorganic):**

8 parts high-quality Potting Soil  
5 parts perlite – 3 parts Granite Sand

**Ft. Worth Cactus and Succulent Society 1:1  
(organic to inorganic):**

4 parts Potting Soil, 2 parts Perlite, 2 parts Compost,  
2 parts Sandy Loam soil, 2 parts Lava Sand

**Bill Uttley Mix 1:1  
(organic to inorganic):**

3 parts Compost, 2 parts Potting soil, 1 part sandy  
loam, 1 part Lava Sand, 1 part Perlite, 1 part Turface, 1  
part Coir

**Debra Lee Baldwin author of Succulents Simplified 2:1  
(organic to inorganic):**

1 part potting soil, 1 part compost, 1 part pumice



## Succulents - Part II (Cont.)

Well, fellow gardeners, I've learned a lot about what to do – and not do (say it with me now – wet!) – with the few surviving, but not thriving succulent babes on my windowsill. They are now sitting in a south window with a squirt bottle nearby and will soon be getting some proper succulent soil. I sincerely hope this is the end of death and destruction – at least on the previously mass scale – of succulents in my care.

### *Resources shared by Carolyn Stoy, Succulent Team Project Manager*

*Fort Worth Cacti and Succulent Society – Cultivation Tips*

<https://thesucculenteclectic.com/>

*Huntington Botanical Gardens – International Succulent Introductions Program*

<https://media.huntington.org/ISI/catalogintro.html>

### *Article Sources*

*Britannica, “succulent”*

<https://www.britannica.com/plant/succulent>

*Texas A&M AgriLife, Somerville Master Gardeners,*

*“Succulents: How to care for and propagate”*

<https://txmg.org/somervell/news/108939>

*Texas A&M AgriLife, Texas A&M Today,*

*“How To Care For Succulents”*

<https://today.tamu.edu/2020/06/01/how-to-care-for-succulents/>

*The Succulent Source,*

*“A Guide On How To Plant Succulents”*

<https://thesucculentsource.com/blogs/succulent-cactus-news/a-guide-on-how-to-plant-succulents>

Parts of this article were taken from

*The Root*, DCMGA's E-magazine , [November 2019, Plant of the Month. “Succulents,” page 7](#)



# The Root Begins Its Seventh Year

BY KAREN GIBSON, THE ROOT EDITOR

The inaugural issue of *The Root* was published April 1, 2018. How time flies! That first issue was only 10 pages long while this issue is over 40 pages!

We started with six regular columns:

- Buds From the Board
- Meet a Member
- Feature
- Project Spotlight
- Plant of the Month
- Help Desk Question of the Month

Six years later, we still have those regular columns and have recently added

- From the Veggie Patch
- Gardening Grandma
- What to Plant
- From the Archives (to celebrate DCMGA's 35th Anniversary)

Over the past six years (April 2018 - March 2024), 72 editions of *The Root* have been published.

90 members have contributed a total of 252 articles. Our Rockstars have been:

- Lee Ann Yates (46)
- Kathy Rainey (32)
- Liz Moyer (26)
- Cheryl Huckabee (43)
- Gay Campbell (28)
- Kathryn Wells (25)
- Barbara Brown (33)

No article is complete without photos to draw the eye! *The Root* has been blessed with some talented photographers – Lea Sage Watson, Janice Goetz, Steve Simpson, Mike James, and Kathryn Wells, to name just a few.

It has truly been a group effort that encompasses the whole organization.  
I couldn't be prouder to belong to such a great group of people.



April 2018 - March 2019



April 2019 - March 2020



## The Root Begins Its Seventh Year (Cont.)



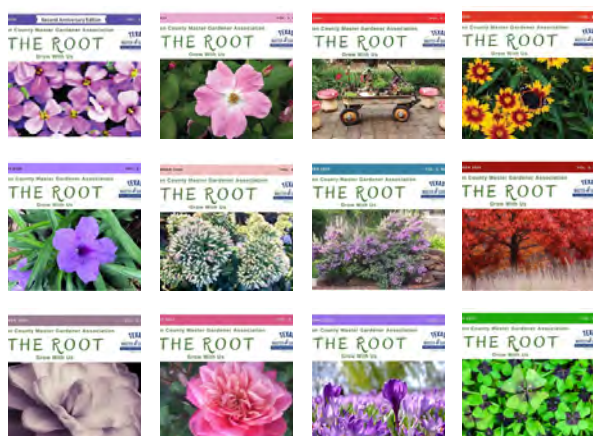
*To continue this great publication,  
The Root needs a Few Good Members!*

**MailChimp** - Each new issue announcement goes monthly to non-members via MailChimp. This takes 30-60 minutes once per month. MailChimp training can be provided.

**Google Sheets** - Each new issue's contents are added to indexes on Google Drive, recording the various articles for quick reference, such as Plant of the Month and Meet a Member. This takes approximately 30 minutes or less each month.

**Assistant Newsletter Editor** - Someone to assist, learn the process, and be willing to take over the Editor's job. Canva experience is helpful, but training can be provided.

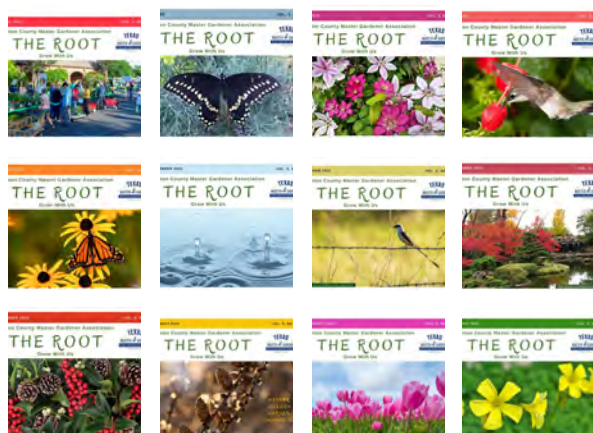
Contact Judy Hill or Karen Gibson via VMS if you are interested in any of these positions.



April 2020 - March 2021



April 2021 - March 2022



April 2022 - March 2023



April 2023 - March 2024



# Why You Should Take Advantage of Local Non-Profit Organization's Plant Sales

BY BARBARA BROWN

Spring is an exciting time for gardeners. After the brown, sad look of our landscapes during the winter, green is coming up everywhere as perennial plants begin their growing season. Big box stores and nursery shelves are filled with plants to entice shoppers. But wait! There is another option for finding the best plants— spring plant sales held by local gardening associations.

## *Why shop at plant sales held by non-profit gardening associations?*

- They often have hard-to-find plants, native plants, and seedlings started by association members from their gardens.
- Most organizations or association plant sales provide knowledgeable volunteers to answer questions including design, planting, and long-term care of your purchases. These associations want you to be successful with their plants because they are concerned for the continuation of the species, and want you back for more next year.
- Prices may be a bit lower than in for-profit nurseries.
- Your purchases help fund programs ranging from public gardens to gardening education and research.

## *And, you are likely to find pass-along plants grown by local gardeners*

- They did so well in someone else's North Texas garden that they have some to share.
- They are already acclimated to our soils and climate.
- They are generally less mature, so they will root in faster.
- The person who donated them is often available to answer questions and provide advice.

## *Advice when attending non-profit organization's plant sales*

1. Bring a cart or wagon and flats or boxes to carry your plants. This makes it much easier to move plants through the rows of for-sale items, to the checkout and your vehicle.
2. Wear a hat and comfortable shoes.
3. Check the plant tag or ask a volunteer about a plant's sun requirements, eventual size, and any cautions about the plant and its growing habits.
4. Have a checkbook or cash available for your purchases. Although many non-profit organizations' plant sales accept credit cards not all of them do.
5. Be flexible. Plan for the spaces you want to fill – not what specific plant you want for them.
6. Select the healthiest plants, not necessarily the biggest or showiest. Look for new growth, leaves, and buds.
7. Check out the association's website for more information about its plant sale. Many sites will list the types of plants available, the time of the event, and may provide a map of the location.

Go early. Local plant sales are popular and some of the most desirable plants sell out quickly.



## Local Plant Sales (Cont.)

### *Benefits of choosing native plants at a plant sale*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines a native plant as “a plant that lives or grows naturally in a particular region without direct or indirect human intervention.” Some authorities define native as a plant that has existed in an area for hundreds of years, while others extend the required time frame to thousands of years to allow for co-evolution of the plant with indigenous insects, birds, and other flora.

Native plants have successfully adjusted to the growing conditions of our area including soil, droughts, floods, excessive heat, and the occasional ice and snow event. Because native plants evolved in North Texas, they are more resistant to common pests and diseases. Note: Texas has many growing regions, so be aware that not all plants native to the State of Texas are native to North Texas.

### *Recommended native plant varieties for North Texas*

Here are three resources that provide lists of North Texas plants divided into categories including trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and ground covers:

Top 100 Native and Adapted Plants for North Texas: [https://twri.tamu.edu/media/5425/native-adapted-plants-updated-january-14-2020\\_reorg2.pdf](https://twri.tamu.edu/media/5425/native-adapted-plants-updated-january-14-2020_reorg2.pdf)

Earth-Kind Plant Selector—<http://ekps.tamu.edu/>

Trinity Forks Native Plant Society (Denton) Lots of information about selecting native plants: <https://www.npsot.org/chapters/trinity-forks/trinity-forks-resources/>

### *Upcoming North Texas plant sales*

- April 5 and 6, Fort Worth Botanic Garden:  
<https://fwbg.org/calendar-events/signature-events/plant-sales/>
- April 13 and 14, 2024 Heard Museum Plant Sale fund-raiser:  
<https://www.heardmuseum.org/plant-sale/>
- April 27, 2024, Trinity Forks Native Plant Society of Texas:  
<https://www.npsot.org/event/trinity-forks-spring-2024-plant-sale/>
- April 27, 2024, Collin County Master Gardener Association:  
<https://ccmgatx.org/events/spring-plant-sale/>
- May 4, 2024, Denton County Master Gardener Association:  
<https://www.dcmga.com/connect/spring-plant-sale/>



# Succession Planting

## *Living on the Wild Side of Cabbage*

BY IVY SUMMERFIELD

I often pinch myself to make sure I am not dreaming. My days start in my garden and end with wild ideas of what I can still plant or how I will add to next year's garden plan. Each year my neighbors and friends wonder what combination of vegetables and flowers I will grow and what contraption I will build to showcase my obsession, gardening.

In 2022, I decided to change up my safe gardening approach, which was planting one vegetable per season in my raised beds. I was tired of harvesting several vegetables at one time and then spending hours canning, freezing, or dehydrating these crops.

I had heard of Succession Planting and while researching, I found an article by Jodi Richmond, West Virginia Extension Agent - Mercer County that clearly explained it. (1)



*Succession planting allows you to maximize yield through strategic planting. Gardeners may plant early in the season with cool-season crops and as those crops are harvested, replace them with warm-season crops and return to cool-season crops again in the fall, so that the garden is continually in production.*

*Another option involves planting smaller amounts of one crop, such as beans, every few weeks so that the harvest continues throughout the season. Alternatively, a gardener could plant different varieties of the same crop with different maturity dates, so each variety would ripen at staggered times throughout the season.*

Succession Planting was just what I was looking for. It would allow me to plant my vegetables in intervals and to can, freeze, and dehydrate without spending long hours in my kitchen. Now, to decide which path to take – I could plant different vegetables in one space all season or one vegetable (different varieties) over and over again. After reading an article by J. J. Barnett, WVU Extension Agent - Wood County, who stated: (2) “Paying close attention to days until maturity is an important part of succession planting,” I realized I didn’t want to spend my time compiling harvest dates. So, I chose to plant one vegetable.

With that decided, I was off to get my rest because the next day I was going to walk the garden and start planning everything out. No sooner did my head hit the pillow than I got this wild idea that I would plant a vegetable that was large in size, stunning in color, and healthy for me. I also wanted to plant a vegetable that wasn’t recommended on any list I had seen – Cabbage!



## Succession Planting (Cont.)

Here is where the Living on the Wild-Side of Cabbage made its debut. I picked a few varieties of Cabbage, checked their harvest dates and then annotated them on my calendar. Finally, I made sure I had all the needed supplies to begin planting.

I quickly realized I had set myself up to be a Cabbage farmer! I had to rethink my garden space due to cabbage needing a large real estate spot to grow. Then I had another wild idea. The past year's weather took out quite a few bushes in my front flower beds. I would use that space and my garden space to accomplish this mission.

I planned my sowing intervals for every three weeks due to my first cabbage choice (Earliane), which required 60 days from seed to harvest. I chose to plant 12 seeds each time. I started my January seeds (6) indoors and (6) outdoors directly in the ground. I did the same in February and March. In April thru July I sowed all (12) seeds directly in the ground. August thru September I split them again, (6) indoor and (6) outdoor, because I felt it was too hot to directly sow all (12) in the ground. October to December I was back to sowing all (12) directly in the ground. My varieties were Green Cabbage, Red Cabbage, Bock Choi, (which never sprouted for me!), and Napa Cabbage.

January came and I hit the ground running. No joke! This plan made me run from front yard to the back yard. I had cabbage everywhere, seedlings coming up, amazing foliage, texture, and color both in the front yard and back yard. Harvesting what the rabbits didn't eat kept me busy.

Not all the plants survived, either due to non-germination, location selected (too little sunshine), or overwatering during hot days. I measured success by the number of cabbage heads harvested and by the beauty of the crop. Although my Succession Planting was not done in any conventional way recommended by professionals, I harvested Cabbage, both large and small, all year long.

Rules on how to plant can be broken.

I recommend you:

- choose your vegetable or flower
- pick the location or locations available for your space requirement
- plan the intervals you want to sow your seeds
- provide needed nutrients
- enjoy the large and/or small produce grown
- harvest a little early if needed due to heat or cold
- enjoy the process over and over in small amounts



**Cabbage Seedlings**

## Succession Planting (Cont.)

One bonus about Succession Planting – all the same principles apply whether you plant vegetables or flowers. Live a little on the wild side of any crop you enjoy!

### Resources:

#### *West Virginia University, Extension*

1. "Succession Planting," <https://extension.wvu.edu/lawn-gardening-pests/gardening/garden-management/succession-planting>
2. "Basics of Succession Planting," <https://extension.wvu.edu/lawn-gardening-pests/news/2019/01/15/basics-of-succession-planting>

Check with your local Extension office and see what crops they recommend planting in both the spring and fall seasons for your area. Here in North Texas we have two great resources:

#### *Texas A&M, AgriLife Extension*

- "Spring Planting Guide for Vegetable Crops," <https://aggiehort.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/earthkind/ekgarden14.html>
- "Fall Vegetable Gardening Guide For Texas," <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/gardening-landscaping/fall-vegetable-gardening-guide-for-texas/>



Plan now for your entries to the

***Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Flower Show***

June 15  
9 am-1 pm,  
at the  
North Texas Fairgrounds  
2217 N. Carroll Blvd, Denton

What will you enter? A juicy tomato? An aromatic herb?  
A beautiful zinnia? Let's get planting!

# Gardening Grandma Says...

BY BARBARA BROWN

*Humans transitioned from hunting and gathering to growing their food about 12,000 years ago. Over the millennia they found some tricks to increase their harvest. What they learned they passed down to their children. Today, some of us are fortunate to have a grandmother, aunt, or neighbor who continues the tradition of sharing old-fashioned gardening wisdom. Much of that shared knowledge is helpful but sometimes it was just a superstition with a long history. The Gardening Grandma series of articles puts these tips and tricks to the test of modern science by answering the question, “Does it really work?” Or, is it a myth?*

*“Plant mint to keep ants out of your garden.”*

## **Truth or myth? Let’s find out.**

Truth or myth? Let’s find out.

When we think of mint it is usually in the context of a flavoring agent for food and drinks. But can it also be an insect repellent? The answer is a qualified, “yes”. According to Texas A&M University, “Some herbs, such as mint, are unattractive to fire ants.”

[https://fireant.tamu.edu/files/2014/03/ENTO\\_010.pdf](https://fireant.tamu.edu/files/2014/03/ENTO_010.pdf)



Artwork: aberry89 on DeviantArt

“Unattractive” does not necessarily mean that mint acts as an ant repellent, but it does suggest that there is some basis for Grandma’s beliefs.

Cornell University conducted a research project using six essential oils including peppermint, and found that “the Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*) and the red imported fire ant crossed barriers treated with multiple rates of peppermint and other essential oils less frequently than paired control barriers. (Wiltz et al. 2007). After 24 hours of exposure to peppermint oil, Argentine ant mortality was almost 90%. The results were confirmed in a study that found 1% peppermint oil to be an effective repellent of Argentine ants for a period of one week (Scocco et al. 2012)”.

Although the fragrance of mint leaves is significantly less than that of mint essential oil, the leaves release a minty scent when touched or chewed. Informal reports from some gardeners confirm that they believe that their mint plants, specifically peppermint and spearmint, seemed to reduce the presence and damage from ant colonies in their gardens.



## Gardening Grandma Says... (Cont.)

### Growing mint

However, before you plant mint in your vegetable garden to keep away ants, you need to know that MINT SPREADS and it spreads aggressively through its underground root system. It is a garden bully! Left unbounded by a pot, it can quickly take over an area. It spreads so effectively that it can even be used as ground cover in open landscape areas. Growing mint in a container helps control the spread, but sneaky mint roots have been known to escape through the pot drainage hole and invade the surrounding area.

The *Central Texas Gardener* tells us “If you have the right conditions, mint’s the easiest plant to grow in the world. Mint plants are normally listed as needing full sun to perform well, but I found that here in scorching-hot Texas, my mint does much better with about half a day of shade.”

Several varieties of mint are offered in the spring at garden centers. These include, but are limited to:

- Peppermint (*Mentha × piperita*)
- Spearmint (*Mentha spicata*)
- Chocolate mint (*Mentha × piperita* f. *citrata* 'Chocolate')
- Apple mint (*Mentha suaveolens*)
- Pennyroyal: (*Mentha pulegiu*)

Mint plants prefer well-drained soil with lots of organic material. The plants require supplemental water during the summer months and often die back. However, they return with vigor as soon as the weather cools in the fall. Surrounding the mint plants with mulch provides some heat protection and extends the spring-to-summer growing season. The plants disappear in the winter but return as soon as the soil begins to warm. To keep the plants bushy, frequent cutting during the growing season is recommended.

If you do not want to grow mint but would like to try its fragrance as an ant deterrent, try dampening cotton balls with mint essential oil and placing them strategically in your garden. Or, mix 20 drops of mint essential oil with water in a spray bottle and squirt where the ants are emerging in your soil. This needs to be repeated frequently.



**Mint Roots Spreading**



## 2023 President's Volunteer Service Awards

DCMGA, certified by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, honors exceptional volunteers. Since 2010, Sue Hudiburgh coordinated the awarding of 933 pins to 311 recipients. This year marked our biggest turnout yet! At our March General Meeting, 114 members who completed volunteer service hours in 2023 received Bronze, Silver, or Gold pins.



### Bronze (100-249 hours)

Ann Athey	Vanessa Fitzgerald	Mary Loskorn	Carol Rowley
Denise Babb	Peggy Fox	Clarice Luce	Kim Shaneyfelt
Barbara Beane	Ellen Gauntt	Kristin Lyon	Beth Sharum
Johanna Belwood	Mary Harned	Shirley Manfredi	Robert Snyder
Nancy Blakney	Edsel Harrell	David Mason	Molly Stingley
Carol Brantley	Donna Hesters	Tyffany Mason	Carolyn Stoy
Barbara Brown	Sue Hudiburgh	Missy McCormick	Ivy Summerfield
Lisa Burt	Donna Hull	Alison McMahon	Sherri Ursini
Becky Cameron	Debby Ishee	Anne McMahon	Pamela Wells
Mary Cissell	Johna Johnson	Kari Miley	Ellen Westmoreland
Daniel Conrad	Gina Kemna	Liz Moyer	Jill Wetmore-Brown
Beckey Cortines	Paige Kendrick	Carol Noble	Ricky Wilkins
Susan Cox	Teri Kettle	Susan Novak	Deb Williams
Tammy de Wet	Leslie Koberna	Tom O'Brien	Dominique Wilson
Claudia Duckworth	Lisa Lebsack	Dee Payne	Katherine Woodward
Don Edwards	Mary Lehrer	Trish Percy	
Kathi Efflandt	Allison Lohse	Kathy Preston	
Sharrie Ely	Pam Long	Michele Rawleigh	

## 2023 President's Volunteer Service Awards (Cont.)



### Silver (250-499 hours)

Russ Allen	Karen Gibson	Dale Powell
Marion Arndt	Tammie Gurley	Chryl Prestemon
Lori Barr	Lynda Harvey	Kathy Rainey
Janice Beck	Linda Hay	Pam Spooner
Kelli Bixler	Ann Hillman	Joanne Spurgin
Martha Cantrell	David Huffman	Steve Spurgin
Mario Casanova	Cece Kenney	Melissa Weaver
Becky Collins	Jolayne LaCour	Kathryn Wells
Susan Cosio	Lisa Marlow	Lee Ann Yates
Linda D'Amanda	Brenda Martin	Janice Yoder Smith
Sheila Daniel	Melissa Migis	
Pat Edwards	Pat Moyer	



***April 21-17 is Volunteer Appreciation Week***

***Thank you DCMGA Volunteers***

***We ♥ You!***



## 2023 President's Volunteer Service Awards (Cont.)



### Gold (500+ hours)

Judy Allen  
Daniel Arenas  
Beverly Duncan  
Janet Gershenfeld

Jeff Hardgrave  
Cheryl Huckabee  
Make James  
Lela Khan

Bill Moen  
Debbie Smith  
Kim Wootton



*Resources & Education Opportunities  
for Master Gardeners and the Community we serve  
can be found on the Calendar at  
Upcoming Events.*

*For non-DCMGA events, Continuing Education Opportunities.*

# 2024 Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show

BY BECKY CAMERON

This year's Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show will be held Saturday, June 15, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the North Texas Fairgrounds, located at 2217 N. Carroll Blvd, Denton, TX, 76201, in the air-conditioned West Wing.



**June 2023 Show**

This is your chance to participate in an old-fashioned County Fair-themed Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show where you compete for ribbons and bragging rights!

This year we have new Entry Divisions:

- Youth - (19 years and younger)
- Adults - (20 and above)
- Master Gardeners - (all ages)

The wonderful Steven Chamblee, former Executive Director of Longview Arboretum and Nature Center, will be our Keynote speaker. In addition, there will be multiple educational booths.

Registration for the show will occur 9 to 10 a.m., with judging starting promptly at 10 a.m. This year's registration will be through a QR code. We will no longer limit the number of entries you can enter. We hope to complete the judging and announce the winners by noon.

DCMGA Members: Planning meetings occur via Zoom - watch Plan Your Week for opportunities to help plan and work this year's event. We invite you to join us!



**2023 Show Entries**



## From The Archives - April 2005

BY JERRY AND GLORIA ALEXANDER

As we prepare to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of DCMGA, we thought it only fitting to bring you some highlights from *The Roto-Teller*, DCMGA's first newsletter. For members, *The Roto-Teller* is archived on the Member section of the DCMGA website under Member Resources. Take some time this year and go see what **YOUR** organization was doing way back when!

Volume 10, Issue 4

Wanted: Plants for DCMGA Fundraiser and Plant Sale

The above was the caption for the April 2005 Newsletter. Can you get a vision of Master Gardeners (MGs) going from house to house, scavenging for plants to sell at the "Fall" Plant Sale? Or, there being a bounty for the MG who donates the most plants. As most of us know, it's now our "Spring" only Plant Sale with the same or similar bounty for Pass Along Plants. Arrangements were made with MGs, both north and south of the lake, to care for the plants until the sale date.

The April Meeting was hosted by Dotty Woodson, Tarrant County Extension Horticulturalist, at her greenhouse. She discussed with the members "How to Grow Orchids." Dotty has won many awards for her innovative programs, designed for children and adults.

### Updates

- Garden Fashion - hats, denim shirts, T-shirts, etc., were sold to members.
- Youth Fair judging was held on March 23-25, 2005. Several MGs participated in this event.
- Denton Red Bud Festival was held on April 9, 2005, at the Courthouse on the Square.
- A special Mentor/Intern Event was planned for MGs who were invited to tour the gardens of member Diane Land and her neighbor, Marie Caillet.
- The Caladium Bulb Sale was canceled due to the crop being destroyed by the hurricanes in Florida the prior year.

There were several volunteer opportunities available for MGs and Interns. Some of these included the North Denton Branch Public Library, Speakers Bureau, Habitat for Humanity, Argyle Acres, and the Children's Community Garden.

The current Board Meeting was called to order by Carolyn Tinner, president. There were thirteen other members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were sent, via email, by the secretary, Mary Morrow. The Treasurer's report was presented by Linda Williams. A request for an annual review of the By-laws was made by President Tinner and it was to be coordinated by Annie Brackin.





## From The Archives - December 2011 *The Israel Prayer Garden in Corinth*

BY PAM PIERCE

Gardeners are, by nature, artists and visionaries. Perhaps you are shaking your head and saying, “No, no, I just like to play in the soil.” Maybe so, but how many adults do you know—other than gardeners—that still like to play in the soil? Gardeners inhabit the world of imagination reserved for the young and the creative. So, whether you want the title or not, you are, as a gardener, a visionary who sees what could be and is willing to play in the soil as long as necessary to make an imagined landscape come to pass.



When my only daughter, Rebekah, was nine years old, we watched the movie adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*. At the time, I was too busy raising five children to indulge my desire for gardening. Besides, the soil at our east Denton home was barren, hard, and full of sandstone. Even so, Rebekah and I shared the dream of one day restoring a forgotten landscape to its former glory. It didn't matter that the garden in the movie existed in an ideal location in faraway England. Our imaginations supplied us with the perfect setting and a beautiful end result!

As my children grew and I had more time to pursue my love of gardening, I discovered the Master Gardener program. After completing the training and required volunteer service to become a certified Master Gardener in 2007, I wondered, “What next?” It wasn't until I discovered the Junior Master Gardener program that I found my niche. What better way for me to effect change than by imparting my love for gardening and the natural world to children? And so, by starting multiple JMG groups in my home church, I found a place where I could serve my community and have a good time playing in the soil at the same time!

One of the first projects my JMG group worked on was researching, designing and installing a small, biblical prayer garden outside the church coffee house. We studied references in the Bible to particular plants, visited the website of a biblical plant preserve in Israel, and found suitable Texas substitutes for a variety of plants indigenous to the Holy Land. In our limited garden space, we planted a fig tree, an olive tree, two grape vines, a rose of Sharon hibiscus, several herbs, some salvia, and a rose. Over the next several years, we tended that little pocket garden and provided a place of beauty for our congregation.

## From The Archives - December 2011 *The Israel Prayer Garden in Corinth (Cont.)*

As is often the case with growing churches, we ran out of room and had to move. Our church purchased the old Boeing building in Corinth in February of 2011 and began the long process of renovation. Even though we would not be able to move into the building for several months, there was one space that demanded my immediate attention: a garden. On the south side of the facility, directly behind a portable cafeteria building, an abandoned, neglected garden waited for someone to love and nurture it back to life.

Starting with the research our JMG group had done three years earlier, we began the process of planning a much larger garden. Suddenly, instead of a pocket garden, we had over an acre to develop. Not only that, but the skeletal remains of a once-cared-for garden, complete with mature oak, crepe myrtle, and vitex trees, waited for restoration. With the help of gardeners and gardeners-in-training within my own church, we began to reclaim the garden in February of 2011.

This garden has been the focus of my life for the past nine months. What started as an abandoned, neglected landscape has become a place of life and peace. In spite of record-breaking heat and drought, the garden prospered this summer. We call it the Israel Prayer Garden because it is modeled after ancient maps of Israel and contains plants and other features representative of Judeo-Christian culture in that region. The backbone of the garden are the seven species of Israel listed in the book of Deuteronomy 8:7-10, which says, "For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of streams, of springs and underground waters flowing out of valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olives for oil and honey. . ."

It has already been the venue for three weddings and is open every day during daylight hours to anyone who needs a quiet place to walk, eat a simple meal, or meditate. The first time I walked through the garden and took pictures last February, my now-grown daughter was with me. As we strolled, arm in arm, through the overgrown landscape, we both remembered the secret garden. We smiled as we imagined what this garden in north Texas could become.



*The Israel Prayer Garden is open to the public and located at Global Spheres Center in Corinth, TX.*

<https://gloryofzion.org/israel-prayer-garden/>





**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

*Q: I just came in from outside where I had to dodge the biggest wasp I've ever seen! What is it & how to I get rid of it?*

**A:** Your reaction is very similar to my own the first time I encountered a cicada killer wasp. In fact, I came inside and immediately googled "aggressive, mutant wasp." Upon reading about it I realized that it is unlikely to bother humans unless they feel threatened, so don't swat at it! (This is true of most stinging insects.) The more aggressive males do not even have a stinger. Cicadas, which may cause plant or tree damage with their v-shaped egg deposits, are sought out by cicada killer wasps for the purpose of feeding their own grub-like larvae.

There are other scary-looking insects that are really garden helpers. Some are:

The ruthless praying mantis has a bottomless appetite for grasshoppers.

Red paper wasps are shorter than 1/2" long with red bodies and black wings. They reduce the presence of caterpillars, aphids,

scale insects, and whiteflies by paralyzing their prey to lay eggs inside of them.

Dragonflies lay eggs on a water surface or sometimes insert them into aquatic plants or mosses. Dragonfly larvae will eat mosquito larvae (also water-born) which helps keep mosquito populations under control.

Adult lacewings can be green or brown with their transparent wings showing a distinct network of veins. Their larvae are often found hiding under debris and resemble alligators, with oblong, soft bodies and distinctive sickle-shaped lower jaws. While the adults feed only on nectar and pollen, they lay their eggs around infested plants so that their larvae can eat thousands of aphids, scale, spider mites, mealy bugs, caterpillars, whiteflies, and thrips.



An adult crane fly, sometimes known as "mosquito hawks," "skeeter-eater," or "daddy longlegs," only has a lifespan of 10 to 15 days. Although the adults resemble mosquitoes, they do not bite or sting humans but feed primarily on plant nectar. Their



larvae feed on decaying organic material & help in nature's decomposition process of grass plants.

Despite their delightful name and appearance, ladybugs are ferocious predators! Before they get their bright red colors, they start out life as very different-looking, somewhat startling larvae, cruising around on plants and feasting on aphids. Ladybug larvae can eat up to 40 aphids an hour!



Earwigs eat mites, aphids, nematodes, slugs, and a wide variety of nuisance insects in the garden. They are mostly harmless unless they amass in large numbers when they may become a voracious threat to your garden.

Rough stink bugs emit a foul odor from their abdominal glands and look like army tanks. They prey on aphids, beetle larvae, and caterpillars and are gardeners' good friends.



There are thousands of species of ground beetles, many of which are beneficial to your garden. Ground beetles can be brown, black, or metallic green or blue in color. Most hunt garden pests like snails, slugs, and cutworms at night, so you may not notice them during the day unless you flip over a rock.

Spiders are creepy for most of us, but they are one of the most beneficial insects in the garden as they prey on mosquitoes, flies, hoppers, ants, aphids, and many other pests.

The brown widow spider originally entered the U.S. in Texas in the 1990s. It resembles the black widow, however, its identifying hourglass is yellowish-orange instead of bright red as on a black widow. Brown widow bites are of minor risk to humans, as their fangs are too short to penetrate the skin, but they aggressively seek out black widows to bite, thus causing the black widow population to decline. Found under eaves, window ledges, recessed handles of garden furniture or plastic trash bins, their diet includes mosquitoes, flies, crickets, ants, and roaches.



*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](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov).*

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

## Page One

**FLOWER MOUND COMMUNITY GARDEN**

**April 4** Community Garden Work Day. Public is welcome. Learn and grow veggies to help the community. Wear comfortable shoes, hat, and sunscreen. Bring water.  
Flower Mound First Baptist 1701 Timber Creek Rd, Flower Mound 9AM-11AM

**RAINWATER COLLECTION**

**April 6** 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. You will learn about the importance of watershed and rain water harvesting, followed by a rain barrel set-up demonstration.  
Free, but pre-registration required:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4ca5ae29a3f9c07-rainwater#/>  
Global Spheres Center 7801 S. 35E, Corinth 9AM-12PM

**COMPOSTING**

**April 6** Soil quality is key for a prosperous garden, and composting is the best way to build nutritious soil for your plants while mulch maintains temperature and moisture levels. You will learn all about these two keys to soil health! From the simplicity to the science within it to having a better understanding of how to make it happen and replenish your garden, Denton County Master Gardener Mike James will share all the secrets with you.  
Carrollton Public Library at Josey Ranch Lake  
1700 Keller Springs Road, Carrollton 10:30AM-11:30AM

**BEULAH ACRES AGROFOREST-COMPOSTING**

**April 6** Composting is the best way to improve your soil quality. This is the answer to achieving a beautiful garden, and composting is the best way to build nutritious soil for your plants. In this class, you will learn all about it! From the simplicity of it to the science within it to having a better understanding of how to make it happen and replenish your garden with amazing good compost! Presented in partnership with Beulah Acres Agroforest.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CA5AE29A3F9C07-compost#/>  
Global Spheres Center 7801 S Interstate 35E Corinth, 1PM

**Ferns, Groundcovers and Easy Care Lawns**

**April 9** Perk up your yard today! Denton County Master Gardener Charlotte Canion will share her expertise on ferns, groundcovers and easy care lawns.  
Co-sponsored by the Flower Mound Garden Club,  
Bridlewood Activity Ctr. 5000 Par Drive, Flower Mound 7PM-8PM

"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 Cooperating."





## Page Two



**Denton County Master Gardener Association**

**Upcoming Events**

**Monthly Meeting and Program-Wicked Plants**

**April 10** Join us for a fascinating presentation by Dallas County Master Gardener Kevin Burns! Discover the intriguing world of plants—some deadly, illegal, intoxicating, dangerous, painful, or invasive. Through engaging historical anecdotes, vivid photos, and essential facts, Kevin will help us identify these plants, enabling us to steer clear of them in our landscapes. followed by our general meeting.  
Global Spheres Center 7801 S. 35E, Corinth 10AM-12PM

**Ask a Master Gardener Booth**

**April 10** We'll have Master Gardeners on hand to answer your questions at this Ladies Night event. Bring your list!  
Ace Hardware Denton, 912 W. University 6PM-8PM

**Herbal Branch tour of Farmers Branch Rose Garden**

**April 11** What a beautiful sight it will Be! Herbal Branch will get the privilege to tour and hear about the many roses at the Farmers Branch Rose Garden from Master Gardener, Sharrie Ely. She is the President of the Dallas Area Rose Society, and a Consulting Rosarian with the American Rose Society. Sharrie is a wealth of knowledge! There are four large established gardens to enjoy and explore.  
Farmers Branch Rose Garden 10AM-12PM

**Edible Gardening**

**April 17** Nothing beats home-grown vegetables for taste and texture! Grow your own right in your yard. Tammie Gurley, Denton County Master Gardener, will present her many tips for success learned for successful vegetable growing in this area.  
Little Elm Public Library, 100 W. Eldorado Parkway, Little Elm 5:30PM-6:30PM

**Earth Day Celebration @ Josey Ranch Lake**

**April 20** Explore the Pocket Prairie, Seed Library, environmental displays, and educational booths. Enjoy take-and-make crafts and special Earth Day-themed Story Time. This event is for all ages! Co-sponsored by Carrollton Public Library at Josey Ranch Lake. Master Gardener volunteers can sign-up to help using the SignUpGenius link.  
Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie 1700 Keller Springs Rd Carrollton, 11AM-3PM

**Plant Sale**

**May 4** Annual DCMGA Plant Sale – open to the public  
Shop early for the best selections. Consider bringing your own cart/wagon.  
We open at 9 and close at 2pm or until sold out. **COME EARLY!**  
Trinity Methodist 633 Hobson Denton. 9AM-2PM

**Check our website for updated calendar events**  
**<https://www.dcmga.com/events/month/2024-04/>**

"Texas A&M AgrLife 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 Cooperating."





**TEXAS**  
MASTER GARDENER  
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
Denton County

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION'S

# Plant Sale

**May 4, 2024**  
**9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. or Until sellout,**  
**RAIN or SHINE!!!**

**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**633 Hobson Lane, Denton**

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

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

For more information,  
Visit our Website: [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com)  
Email: [master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov)  
Call Help Desk phone: (940)349-2892

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

\*Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Denton County AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance of the meeting or event to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

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



DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

# 2024 Garden Tour

SATURDAY, MAY 11  
9 AM TO 4 PM



## TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

**Advanced purchase \$15      Tour day \$20.  
Children 12 and under are FREE.**

Inspiration abounds with self-guided tours of five unique properties in Flower Mound/Double Oak including the FMFBC Garden.  
Learn about native perennials and trees, erosion control, wildflowers, mycology, herbs and more!  
Make plans to visit gardening vendors along the way.

**HIDDEN GEM**  
FLOWER MOUND TX



**CENTURY OAK**  
DOUBLE OAK, TX



**SHADES OF EDEN AND ART**  
FLOWER MOUND, TX



**POSSUM CREEK**  
FLOWER MOUND, TX



**SCAN TO BUY TICKETS  
OR ON DCMGA.COM .**





**Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden**  
1901TIMBER CREEK, TX 75028

A Christian Community Action truck will be onsite to collect non-perishable items such as applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken.  
**No charge to tour the public garden**

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## SAVE THE DATE

June 15, 2024 9 am – 1 pm

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER  
ASSOCIATION

### FRUIT, VEGETABLE, HERB & FLOWER SHOW

North Texas Fair Grounds  
2217 North Carroll Blvd.  
Denton, Texas 76201

Public Welcome!  
WE WANT YOU to Enter!  
Enter your prize Fruit,  
Vegetable, Herb or Flower

**Keynote Speaker: Steven Chamblee**  
former Executive Director Longview  
Arboretum and Nature Center



- FREE Event
- Entries open to all Denton County residents
- Show off your successful harvest
  - Vegetable, Fruit, Herb and Flower Categories
  - Up to 10 entries per person
- Divisions for;
  - Adults (19 years and older)
  - Master Gardeners
  - Youth (18 and under)
- See [dcmga.com](https://dcmga.com) for details or register using QR Code



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Contact the County Extension Office at least one week prior to the program or event to request mobility, hearing, visual or other assistance.





### 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.

### 2024 Board of Directors

President	Cheryl Huckabee
Vice-President	Kelli Bixler
Secretary	Lori Barr
Treasurer	Dale Powell
Communications	Judy Allen
Education	Ellen Gauntt
Outreach	Bonnie Ambrose
Member-at-Large	Raeline Nobles
Past President	Kathryn Wells

### Social Media

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

X (formerly Twitter):

<https://twitter.com/DentonCountyMGA>

Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

### Save the Date

- April 10 DCMGA Monthly Meeting & Program, "Wicked Plants," Kevin Burns
- May 4 DCMGA Plant Sale
- May 11 DCMGA Garden Tour

### Contact Information

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<https://dcmga.com>

### Content

**The Submission deadline for the May edition of The Root is Monday, April 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 Judy Allen at [jupiterjudyjudy@gmail.com](mailto:jupiterjudyjudy@gmail.com).

Unless otherwise attributed, all photos are courtesy of Denton County MGA.