



THE ROOT

Grow With Us 



35 YEARS AND STILL GROWING



- 02 [Buds From The Board](#)
- 04 [Spotlight: SWAt](#)
- 07 [Plant of the Month: Gomphrena](#)
- 09 [August Garden Tips](#)
- 10 [Fall Into Gardening](#)
- 11 [In the Veggie Patch: Tomatoes](#)
- 13 [Feature: Insects in Our Garden, The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly](#)
- 19 [Want a Great Fall Harvest? Plant Now!](#)
- 21 [Peach Crisp Recipe](#)
- 22 [The Heartburn and Glory of Growing Tomatoes](#)
- 25 [Gardening Grandma Says: Scare Away Rodents Using Predator Urine](#)
- 27 [O'SWAt Summer Camp: Outdoor Explorers](#)
- 29 [2024 Junior Master Gardener Mini Kids Camp at Shiloh](#)
- 31 [Help Desk Q&A: Bagworms on Trees](#)
- 32 [North Texas Gardening Links to DCMGA + The Root](#)
- 34 [DCMGA Contact Info & Mission Statement](#)

Celebrating 35 Years of Growing Greatness

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE, PRESIDENT

This month, we're excited to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Denton County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA). What started in 1989 with just 12 members under the leadership of John Cooper, Denton County's first Extension Agent-Horticulture, has blossomed into a vibrant community of 331 members and interns in 2024.

The original purpose of the Master Gardener program was simple yet impactful: to assist the Extension Agent in answering residents' gardening questions. Over the past 35 years, our mission has expanded far beyond that initial goal. We now strive to educate and inspire Denton County residents through research-based horticulture to promote eco-friendly gardens and enduring landscapes that enrich our communities. This vision helps us grow a healthier, greener Denton County.

Growth and Education

Our members have continually increased their horticultural knowledge through continuing education programs and advanced training classes in specialized horticulture topics. This dedication to learning ensures that we provide our community with the best research-based advice and support.

Enduring Projects

In the mid-nineties, we began taking on projects that have since become staples of our association. The Garden Tour, Plant Sale, and the Fruit, Veggie, Herb, and Flower Show are just a few examples. These events have allowed us to connect with thousands of residents, sharing our passion for sustainable gardening.

Community Impact

Our educational programs have significantly impacted both adults and youth. We've educated countless community members through presentations from our Speakers Bureau, youth programs like Science with Attitude, and partnerships with Denton Parks and Recreation. Our annual Garden Tours, Fall Garden Fest, and Fall Into Gardening events are highly anticipated yearly.

Community Gardens

Our community gardens have been a source of pride and fresh produce for many. Starting with the Denton County Community Garden in the late 1990s, we've expanded to include the Community Strong Farm in Sanger, Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden, and Shiloh Fields Gardens in Denton. These gardens have provided thousands of pounds of fresh produce to area food banks.

Celebrating 35 Years (Cont.)

Beautification Projects

We've also focused on beautifying public spaces and parks. Notable projects include Firemen's Memorial Park (1997), tree planting at Isle de Bois (1999), Habitat for Humanity homes (2000), Double Tree Ranch Park Pavilion (2018), Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie (2022), Argyle Unity Park (2022), and the Denton County Historical Park Gardens (mid-2000s).

Partnerships

Our partnerships with over 20 community organizations, including 4-H, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District, Master Naturalists, and the Native Plant Society of Texas, have been instrumental in our success. These collaborations extend to municipal and county organizations, area libraries, and senior centers.

Educational Outreach

In our early years, we relied on frequent articles in the Denton Record-Chronicle to reach our audience. Today, we've embraced modern communication methods. Our Help Desk Question of the Week on social media responds to seasonal information requests from county residents using AgriLife-based information. Our website hosts over 80 educational horticulture articles. Additionally, we contribute three educational features to our monthly e-magazine, *The Root*, and provide monthly articles in three local media publications, offering seasonally focused information.

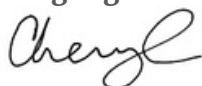
Scholarships and Awards

Through the Blue Ribbon Club, we've awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to high school and college students studying horticulture-related topics. We're proud to have received 47 Search for Excellence Awards from the Texas Master Gardener Association, including 12 outstanding association awards, 20 workshop-presentation awards, 12 written record awards, and 11 individual master gardener awards.

Member Appreciation and Social Activities

We show appreciation for our members through annual awards and volunteer service recognition. We also love to have fun together at our annual Christmas Party, movie nights, plant swaps, and wine-tasting events. Our Sunshine Gardeners group reaches out to members during times of need, ensuring we support each other both in and out of the garden.

As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to many more decades of serving Denton County. Here's to growing together!



SWAt: Education Outreach Program

BY MARION ARNDT, SWAT VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

SWAt (Science With Attitude) is the youth educational outreach arm of the Denton County Master Gardener Association, Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalists, and Denton County 4-H, making it a unique collaborative endeavor. Working jointly, SWAt's volunteer team works hand-in-hand with educators and community event organizers to provide quality programs both in the classroom and other community venues. While our programs are mostly geared to elementary and middle school students, they can be worked up or down to accommodate pre-school and high school students as well.



Our program provides researched-based curricula, which align with state standards in math, science, and reading, to educators and community volunteers from Denton County public, private, and home-based education programs in these four categories:

- ecology
- environmental science
- discovering wildlife
- plant growth and development

In addition, SWAt offers summer day camp programs to all Denton County's Parks and Rec Departments and community libraries. We also provide hands-on activities, demonstration models, and information booths at scouting events, local fairs, school science nights, and school STEM expos. For those schools wanting to create a school garden or outdoor learning center, SWAt has developed a "How To" manual as an introduction and offers guidance in developing and maintaining the project.

Developed by the Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalists, Denton ISD School Days at Clear Creek reaches over 5,000 second and fourth-grade students annually in the spring and fall. SWAt volunteers are a critical component in program development, training, and staffing.



All SWAt programs are offered free of charge and include a volunteer instructor, lesson plan, demonstration model, and supplies.

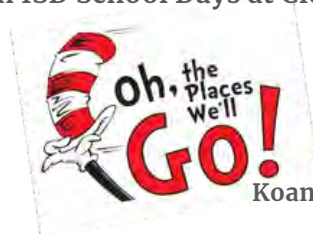
For more information or to request a program, go to:
<https://www.dcmga.com/how-we-serve/youth-programs/>

Education Outreach Program (Cont.)

MAKING AN IMPACT!

In keeping with DCMGA's mission statement to educate Denton County residents in sound horticultural practices, SWAt (Science with Attitude) takes pride in bringing that information to our younger generation through its **Educational Outreach Program**.

Since January 2024, SWAt has reached **4,532** Denton County Students and **711** Adults. This number includes the spring Denton ISD School Days at Clear Creek Program, which reached **1,142** second-grade students.



Windsong Ranch Elementary, *Prosper*

Daisies Girl Scouts, *Little Elm*

Leadership Prep School, *Frisco*

Lakeview Elementary STEM Nite, *Little Elm*

Girl Scout Troop 579, *Lewisville*

Nette Schultz Elementary, *Denton*

Bridlewood Elementary STEM Nite,
Flower Mound

Wildridge Community Spring Event, *Oak Point*

Great American Cleanup, *Denton*

Keep Argyle Beautiful, *Argyle*

Hattie Dyer Elementary, *Krum*

Selvyn School, *Argyle*

Muenster Elementary, *Muenster*

Denia Parks & Rec Camp, *Denton*

Pecan Square Community HOA, *Northlake*

Fruit, Veggie, Herb, Flower Show, *Denton*

O'SWAt Outdoor Summer Camp, *Denton*

City of Carrollton-JMG Program, *Carrollton*

Koan School Spring Festival, *Denton*

Wellington Elementary Science Nite,
Flower Mound

Butterfield Elementary, *Sanger*

McKamy Middle School, *Flower Mound*

DCMGA Plant Sale, *Denton*

Home School Network, *Oak Point*

Lance Thompson Elementary, *Argyle*

Betty Foster Public Library, *Ponder*

Clover Kids Camp, *Denton*

Blue Bonnet Elementary, *Lewisville*

Josey Ranch Earth Day, *Carrollton*

WinKids Sports & Learning Center,
Flower Mound

Harvest Christian Academy, *Lantana*

Lake Dallas Elementary, *Lake Dallas*

Krum Ag Days, *Krum*

DISD School Days at Clear Creek, *Denton*

Flower Mound Library, *Flower Mound*

Pilot Point Library, *Pilot Point*

Education Outreach Program (Cont.)

MAKING AN IMPACT!



Scout group creating mini-gardens



Butch Jones, Marissa Shaw, and Brenda Martin teach about the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse



Sharon Betty leads the hike during DISD School Days at Clear Creek



Worm composting with Don and Pat Edwards



Plant of the Month - Gomphrena

BY PATRICIA GUNNISON

Gomphrena (Globe Amaranth or Bachelor's Buttons), identified in 2011 as a Texas Superstar, thrives in Texas heat. Plants started in July or early August could provide a beautiful fall display and dried material for winter decoration.

Bachelor's Buttons (according to Hortus Third) came to us from tropical areas of the Old World. They have been documented as having been part of early American gardens. Popular with our ancestors, Bachelor's Buttons were used as "everlastings." On each plant, dozens of individual flowers provide attractive mounds about 2 feet tall and equally as wide. Following the first frost, cut flowers hung upside down in a dark, dry area and allowed to dry will hold their color for a year or more. In addition to dried flower arrangements, flower heads can be used for next year's seed.

Characteristics

- **EXPOSURE:** Full Sun
- **ATTRACTS POLLINATORS**
- **PLANT HABIT OR USE:** Warm-season annual
- **SIZE:** Height 1-4 feet and about as wide
- **PLANTING TIME:** June and July (after nights have become warm)
- **SOIL TYPE:** Well-drained; tolerates a wide range of soil types
- **SOIL pH:** 6.1 to 6.5
- **WATER:** Once established, plants are drought tolerant; water at ground level when the top inch of soil feels dry
- **FLOWER COLOR:** white, pink, shades of lavender to a dark, rich purple.
- **BLOOM TIME:** June to frost
- **HARDINESS ZONES:** 2 to 11
- **NATIVE AREAS:** Central and South America, Mexico, Southern U.S.
- **PEST TOLERANCE:** High pest resistance
- **EDIBLE PLANT:** Leaves and Flowers; cooked



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Judy Allen

**Gomphrena
(Gomphrena globosa),
Bachelor's Buttons are easily
grown and transplanted.**

Seed Starting

Gomphrena (*Gomphrena globosa*) plants are easily grown and transplanted.

Gomphrena (Cont.)

It is recommended to:

- Soak seeds overnight in room-temperature water to promote germination
- Fill containers with potting soil
- Sprinkle seed onto the soil surface leaving it uncovered
- OR sprinkle seed directly onto garden soil leaving it uncovered. Gomphrena seeds require direct sunlight to germinate
- Keep soil moist until seedlings emerge



Once seedlings have several leaves and are 2-3 inches tall, they can be moved to permanent locations spaced 1-1 1/2 feet apart for mass effect.

Note: As daytime temperatures approach 70 degrees Fahrenheit, for plants grown indoors, harden off the plants to acclimate them to the outdoors before transplanting them into the garden or outdoor containers.

Definition: Hardening Off - The treatment of tender plants or seedlings that enable them to withstand cooler or warmer temperatures as well as wind. Leaving plants outdoors for short periods of time and building up to several days, will allow them to become strong enough to endure more adverse conditions. This process can take 1-2 weeks. ~ [DCMGA.com Gardening Terms](https://dcmga.com)

Varieties

COMMON GLOBE AMARANTH (*Gomphrena globosa*) – This species includes several cultivars grown as garden annuals or herbs. The globe-shaped blooms are made up of tiny white or yellow flowers surrounded by pink, purple, or white petals.

STRAWBERRY GLOBE AMARANTH (*Gomphrena haageana*) – Popular in home gardens and landscapes. Strawberry Gomphrena, “Strawberry Fields,” has clover-like blooms that are strawberry red with small yellow centers. The *G. haageana* offers a range of flower colors including pink, red-pink, and orange.

PINK GLOBE AMARANTH (*Gomphrena pulchella*) – Masses of vibrant pink blooms with small tangerine-colored flowers.

SONORAN GLOBE AMARANTH (*Gomphrena sonora*) – Masses of white and pink blooms grow on sandy slopes and in the dry streambeds of New Mexico and Arizona.

Gomphrena (Cont.)



Resources

Texas A&M University, Aggie-Hort, Earth-Kind Landscaping

- “Globe Amaranth or Bachelor’s Button,” https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/earthkind/plantselector/detail.php?region=zone_e&plantid=153
- “Red Gomphrena,” https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/earthkind/plantselector/detail.php?region=zone_b&plantid=154.

Texas A&M University, The Southern Garden, “Gomphrena globosa, Bachelor’s Buttons,” Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturalist

<https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/southerngarden/bachelor.html>

The Spruce, “How to Grow and Care for Gomphrena,” Barbara Gillette (updated 9/28/23)

<https://www.thespruce.com/gomphrena-care-guide-7555301>



SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Into Gardening

PRESENTED BY:

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER, CORINTH, TX

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

JEFF RAY, CBS TEXAS METEOROLOGIST
"Changing Weather, Changing Gardens"

TONI MOOREHEAD, OWNER SIGNATURE GARDENS
"Blooms & Beyond: Year-Long Color for Your Garden"

Presentations, Demonstrations, & Information Booths to
Help You Grow!

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

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*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>

In The Veggie Patch: Tomatoes

BY JUDY ALLEN

Tomatoes are by far, the most popular plant in a summer vegetable garden. However, they may not be the easiest one to grow. There are diseases and pests to contend with. Not to mention they like consistent water. Not to be discouraged, once you harvest your home-grown tomato, you will be hooked.

Determinate vs. Indeterminate

Determinates fruit all at once, usually within 2-3 weeks and then the plant dies back and will not produce another significant crop. Indeterminate types produce fruit all summer long and can continue into the fall. Indeterminates keep growing and they are truly a vine. Lots of support is needed. I like to grow lots of determinates because I want to preserve them into sauce and other products. They ripen all in a short period of time and so canning, dehydrating, or freezing is accomplished all at once.



Roma Tomatoes

Varieties for North Texas

There are literally thousands of varieties of tomatoes, from Micro Dwarf to Mortgage Lifter! For North Texas, on the top of the list are always Celebrity, Better Boy, Early Girl, Roma, and Sun golds! A family only needs a few plants, so have fun while choosing a variety! Check out other local favorites listed our [July 2024 issue, Bountiful Tomatoes!](#)

Plant Requirements

Soil: Rich, lot of organic material such as compost, leaves, rotted hay; well-draining

Light: Full sun, 6-8 hours/day. Less sun means your plants will be leggy, set very little fruit, and will not thrive

Planting

Spring: If you are starting seeds, start in February. As they grow you may need to “pot up” to a larger container before setting out in the garden. Seeds need light to perform well. Consider a grow light and remember, tomatoes cannot go in the garden in the spring until all chance of frost is past. Also, there is a space of time when you are “hardening off” your tender plants before planting. You gradually introduce them to small amounts of sunlight each day for at least a week so they can adjust to the sun, wind, and the elements. Don’t rush this step.

In The Veggie Patch: Tomatoes (Cont.)

When planting transplants, the nursery has done lots of this hard work for you. Bring them home and plant, making sure you give enough spacing between plants for good air circulation. There is certainly more work when starting from seed, but the varieties you can choose are endless. The more popular varieties are usually available as transplants from your local nursery.

Fall: Transplants are a must for fall tomatoes, as they won't have time to mature before our average first frost if planted from seed. Transplant on a cloudy day, if possible, or in the evening, and add some shade protection (shade cloth). Your transplants will appreciate it.

Care

Whichever variety you choose, remember to water regularly. Blossom end rot can be avoided by consistently watering your plants. Mulch your plants with straw, leaves, or compost to hold in moisture. Trim up any leaves that touch the ground. Many plant diseases are transported through those low-hanging leaves. Keep your plants properly supported with appropriate cages or a trellis. Feed your plants, always using what is recommended on the product you are using. Never over-fertilize; more is not better.



Blossom End Rot

The most important thing is to check your plants daily. Enjoy your garden and especially that amazing flavor that can only come from a home-grown tomato.

Resources

DCMGA, *The Root*, May 2024, Help Desk Q&A, "Growing Tomatoes" (p. 32)

<https://www.dcmga.com/root-2024-05#page=32>

The Root, July 2020, "Growing Tomatoes in the Fall" (Page 6)

<https://dcmga.com/root-2020-07#page=6>

The Root, July 2022, Help Desk Q&A, "Blossom End Rot" (p.23)

<https://www.dcmga.com/root-2022-07#page=23>

Texas A&M University, AgriLife Extension, "Easy Gardening, Tomatoes," Joseph Masabni, Assistant Professor and Extension Horticulturist

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2013/09/EHT-043.pdf>

Read about more Tomato Pests & Disease Information in [The Heartburn and Glory of Growing Tomatoes](#) on page 22.



Insects in Our Garden

The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly

BY MARTHA CANTRELL

For many of us, the sight of a creepy-crawly bug in our beautiful garden stirs up an age-old instinct – SQUISH IT. But wait...before you pulverize that little creature, take a second look. Many of the insects inhabiting your garden are there because it's a veritable buffet of their favorite food – other bugs. And often, these insects are eating the ones destroying your garden. Some of them may be ugly, creepy, itch-inducing, and bring on bad dreams, but instead of judging a bug by its cover, we should learn the benefits they provide, and they might just look beautiful to you. By allowing, or even purposefully adding helpful bugs to your garden, you are letting nature take some of the work out of keeping your garden pest-free.

In this article, I want to provide you with some examples of both good and bad garden insects, so next time you come upon one, you will know which are squish-worthy and which should be allowed to live a long, buggy life in your garden.

The Good Guys

There are so many beneficial insects you'll find in your garden; it would take 10 articles to talk about all of them. So, I'm going to introduce or reintroduce you to the most common good guys and some may surprise you.

Of course, there are the good guys we all know about, ladybugs, butterflies, and bees. We all love these guys and are happy to see them buzzing around, but you might be squishing them before they have a chance to get to the superhero friend they are meant to be.

The ladybug is the best example. The adult is pretty, whimsical, and just plain cute. But the larvae and pupae stages are very creepy and menacing looking. I must admit that I have squished a few of these in my ignorant past and carry some guilt for



Ladybug Larvae



Ladybug Pupae

Insects in Our Garden (Cont.)

So, before you stomp on the creepy little bugger, use an app on your phone to help you identify whether he's a Superhero or a dastardly villain.

The Good Guys

Praying Mantis

This beautiful creature happens to be my all-time favorite good 'guy,' even though I should say good 'girl' because, if you see one of these beauties, it is most likely female. The male's only job is to 'service' the female, and to thank him, she bites off his head. Yes, that IS worthy of a horror movie, nature can be cruel and very creepy, but it ALWAYS has a purpose. They eat aphids, roaches, crickets, fruit flies, and other annoying pests.

Spiders

The spider has been around since dinosaurs roamed the earth and will likely be on this planet long after humans are gone. They are one of the most misunderstood and maligned creatures on the planet. Yes, even though I KNOW they are very beneficial, I still scream like a little girl when one falls, climbs, or jumps on me. They are great for pest control outdoors and in. Spiders can also help pollinate plants in your garden including tomatoes, pumpkins, and watermelons! They eat several plant pests, such as gnats, flies, mosquitos, aphids, mealybugs, and scale insects.

Parasitic Insects

These beneficial insects are worthy of a starring role in horror or SciFi movies, are the parasitic insects, the most common being the Braconid or parasitic wasp. Ask a tomato gardener which pest they hate the most, and they are likely to respond without hesitation, "Hornworms!" These freakishly large caterpillars can devour an entire tomato crop overnight. But nothing thrills a gardener more than finding a hornworm covered in little white cases, like the one pictured here. Just when hope is almost lost, the braconid wasps arrive to save the day. The female braconid wasp deposits her eggs inside the hornworm caterpillar's body. As the wasp larvae develop and feed inside the caterpillar. When they are ready to pupate,



Allen Bridgman, South Carolina
Department of Natural Resources,
Bugwood.org

UGA5192029

Praying Mantis



Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State
University, Bugwood.org

61000

Yellow Garden Spider

Insects in Our Garden (Cont.)

the braconid wasp larvae chew their way out of their host and spin silk cocoons on the caterpillar's exoskeleton. Try not to think of this insect before going to bed tonight, I dare you...



David Cappaert, Bugwood.org 5402600

Braconid Wasp



Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly
San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org

5606094

**Braconid Wasp Cocoons on
Tomato Hornworm**

Green Lacewings

The delicate, beautiful adult lacewings feed on pollen, nectar, and honeydew. Green lacewing larvae, however, are voracious predators. Nicknamed "aphid lions," the larvae do an impressive job of devouring aphids by the dozens. They also eat cockroaches, earwigs, flies, and mosquitoes.



Mary C Legg, Mary C Legg, Bugwood.org

5581781

Green Lacewing



Bradley Higbee, Paramount Farming,
Bugwood.org

UGA9005037

Lacewing Larvae

The Bad Guys

You have worked hard to ensure your garden is in peak condition. You have selected your plants, started them from seed, purchased nursery-grown plants, worked the soil, and spent time weeding and watering. Everything looks great until common garden pests like aphids or

Insects in Our Garden (Cont.)

grasshoppers discover your hard work and try to claim it for themselves. After you are finished saying all the words your parents told you not to, it's time to identify them and see what you can do to prevent them or at least get them to move on to someone else's garden. (Please do not tell my neighbors I said that!) If you can identify the problem and act quickly, you will have a much greater chance of eradicating it. Pesticides kill indiscriminately, good guys and bad, so I prefer the more natural approach of attracting more good guys.

Aphids

Aphids are the most common garden pests globally. Aphids feed by piercing the tissue of the host plant and sucking up the sap. Unfortunately, sap is mostly sugar, so an aphid must consume a lot of sap to meet its nutritional requirement for protein. Much of what the aphid consumes goes to waste. The excess sugar is eliminated in the form of a sugary droplet called honeydew. Even though aphids poop sugar, there is nothing sweet about them. They will attack many different varieties of plants, including fruits, vegetables, flowers, annuals, perennials, shrubs, and houseplants. When you see one, you're missing hundreds of his closest friends.



Aphids

Squash Bugs and Vine Borers

Squash bugs and vine bores can wipe out the entire year's harvest of squash, pumpkins, melons, or zucchini. Squash bugs suck sap from these veggies and vine borer larvae hatch and penetrate the plant stem, where they feed on plant tissue for up to a month. They both survive winter either in leaf debris or in the soil. This makes them exceedingly difficult to eliminate.



Squash Beetle



Squash Vine Borer

Insects in Our Garden (Cont.)

Grasshoppers

Last and currently the bane of my existence, the dreaded grasshopper. Gardeners and grasshoppers are rarely on friendly terms, so I'm not the only one who despises these horrible, grotesque vermin. Grasshoppers are hungry insects that can eat 16 times their own weight in one day and reproduce quickly. An outbreak (when swarms of insects hatch and begin feeding simultaneously) can devastate a small garden in just a few hours. You can plant flowers, such as marigolds, calendula, sunflower, aster, alyssum, or dill to attract beneficial insects, like robber flies. A few other garden predators, such as spiders and toads, will also help keep grasshoppers under control. Unfortunately, like in my garden, you would need a platoon of toads and others to even make a dent.



Grasshopper

What you can do...

There is good news at the end of this Stephen King-worthy tale. You CAN lessen the number of bad guys by increasing the number of good guys. And it's easier than you think! Below you will find rays of hope...how to make your garden the best accommodation where all the good guys want to live.

- **Native Plants.** Native plants are more attractive to pollinators and other beneficial insects than non-native plants. The more native plants you have, the more attractive your garden will be to beneficial insects. For best results, choose native plants that bloom at different times of the year and produce different-colored flowers and lots of nectar and pollen. This also provides a beautiful variety of flowers and plants that can withstand the harsh North Texas weather. Double benefit!
- **Don't use pesticides!** Most of the bad guys have developed a tolerance for pesticides but the good guys haven't. So using pesticides will skew the battle of good and bad to the benefit of the bad guys. Not only does it kill off the good guys but it also harms toads, lizards, birds, and other non-insect good guys when they eat the bad guys. It should ONLY be used in the most extreme cases and with great care and control.
- **Practice Good garden maintenance.** Clean up garden debris, dead plants, leaves, and anything else that a bad guy can hide in and multiply. This is a tough one for me because that's not the fun part of gardening.

Insects in Our Garden (Cont.)

- Accept some pests. This is another tough one for me. My brain knows I will never get rid of all of the pests, but my heart wants a beautiful, happy, Disneyesque, bad-guy-free garden with butterflies, dragonflies, and bees as its residents. That being impossible, I must put on my big girl panties and live with the diversity nature gives me.

Gardening is very challenging and frustrating. It can break your heart over and over and over again. But the joy, relaxation, stress relief, and health benefits it brings far outnumber the bad guys. I hope this article has helped you discover ways to attract more good guys and find a few solutions for eliminating the bad guys. Happy Gardening!

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Missouri Botanical Garden, “Insects, Pests, and Problems in the Garden”

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Oklahoma State University Extension, “Beneficial Insects”

<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/beneficial-insects.html>

“Home Vegetable Garden Insect Pest Control”

<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/home-vegetable-garden-insect-pest-control.html>

Clemson Cooperative Extension, Home & Garden Information Center

“Incorporating Beneficials Into the Gardener’s Toolkit”

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/incorporating-beneficials-into-the-gardeners-toolkit/>

Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, “Insects in the Garden – Friends and Foes”

<https://blog.dallasarboretum.org/insects-garden-friends-foes/>

Denton County Master Gardener Association, “Solving Garden Problems, From Pests to Weeds”

<https://www.dcmga.com/maintain-and-solve-problems/solve-problems-2/>



Want a Great Fall Harvest? Plant Now!

BY JUDY ALLEN

It's hard to believe that in the hottest part of the Summer, we should be planting vegetables. It sounds completely wrong, but this is one of the most successful seasons we have here in North Texas. While it may be too late to plant out tomato and pepper seeds, you can set out transplants.



Fall Garden Tomato Transplants

One issue most of us have is space availability. My summer garden was still going strong through June, so I didn't have the room for fall vegetables. As July heats up, the garden slows down considerably. For me, August is the perfect time to pull out the summer tomatoes that are looking quite scraggly. Keep track of where you planted all your nightshades: tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, and eggplant. You will want to rotate your crops and not plant any more nightshades there for at least 2-3 years. This will keep diseases and insects from taking up residence in those beds. This is a tough strategy for the small garden, so do the best you can, and don't forget you can always plant in containers, hay bales, or grow bags. I plant my bush beans and more cucumbers in the place of my summer tomatoes. Most of the pepper plants have weathered the summer heat and are still producing.

What to Plant

We are including Fall Planting Guides for you to enjoy. You will notice that not all guides are in complete agreement. Keep in mind that the Aggie Horticulture chart lists our region as Region 3. Some of us have a microclimate that supersedes this chart. The lists are quite extensive, and one of the most important things to remember is how long from planting to maturity are your new vegetables. You certainly don't want to go to all the trouble of planting to find out that your first fall frost date might take out your fall garden!

Seeds or Transplants

This is quite important. For the fall garden, tomatoes and peppers must be planted from transplants as they won't have time to mature before our average first frost if planted from seed. A little shade protection from the hottest afternoon sun will be very much appreciated by your transplants. Many items can be planted from seed, especially root vegetables like beets and carrots. Fortunately, these vegetables don't mind some cold weather. I have overwintered carrots many times, and they are very sweet at harvest. You may also get a harvest of potatoes if the timing is right. Potatoes do not tolerate any cold weather, so plant soon if you want a fall crop.

Want a Great Fall Harvest? Plant Now! (Cont.)

As Summer turns into fall, with a cool down, think about true cool weather crops. Lettuce, spinach, turnips, and radish to name a few. Spinach is very difficult to germinate in warm weather. I have been starting seeds in trays indoors and then transplanting them outside. This seems to work well. October is traditionally our time for planting garlic. This allows it to become well-established before winter. Remember, it stays in the ground all the way into summer so plan your bed space accordingly.



Carrot, Lettuce, and Radish are Crops for the Cooler Fall

The lists are filled with many more choices for your fall garden. Don't forget the flowers!. They add beauty and help our pollinators as they transition into winter.

I hope you will consider a fall garden. They are quite successful in our climate. It is so much more pleasant to tend the garden when the weather begins to cool, and insect pressure is much less than it was in the spring.

Happy Gardening!

Resources

[DCMGA, Monthly Gardening Tips](#)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, "Fall Vegetable Guide For Texas," Larry Stein and Joe Masagni
<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/gardening-landscaping/fall-vegetable-gardening-guide-for-texas/>

Dallas County Master Gardener Association, "Fall Planting Starts in June," Stephanie Suesan Smith. <https://dallascountymastergardeners.org/fall-planting-starts-in-june/>

Best of Texas Landscapes, "Fall Flowers in Texas," Tera Stubblefield
<https://bestoftexaslandscapes.com/flowers-to-plant-this-fall-in-texas/>

DCMGA, The Root, July 2019, Fall Vegetable Gardening (p.14)
<https://dcmga.com/root-2019-07#page=14>.

DCMGA, The Root, November 2022, "Guide to Fall Planting of Onions and Garlic in North Texas" (p.14). <https://dcmga.com/root-2022-11#page=14>.



Peach Crisp Recipe

The monthly DCMGA General Meetings always include FOOD! Delicious Food. Abundant Food. At a recent meeting, DCMGA Member Ruth Tweto brought Peach Crisp, which subsequently generated several requests for the recipe. With peach season just ahead, it might be something to try!



Peach Crisp

by Ruth Tweto

Ready in 3 hours (includes cooling time)

Serves - 20 people if cut into 20 pieces

Calories? LOTS

Tips

This recipe was a mistake from the original but was so tasty we decided to keep it. The original recipe called for 2 cups of milk (not included in the recipe) and the peaches were to be canned or fresh peaches, not pie filling. It would then be more of a peach cobbler.

Ingredients

2 cups flour

3 tsp Baking Powder

1/4 tsp salt

2 c. sugar

1 cup butter (2 sticks) softened

2 cans peach pie filling

Preparation

Preheat Oven to 350 degrees

Line a 9x13 pan with parchment paper

Cream the first five ingredients until a crumb consistency.

Place the crumb mixture in the pan. Press down evenly and into all corners.

Open the cans of pie filling and pour evenly over the mixture. Spread the filling evenly.

Bake 45-60 minutes until done.

Cool and use the parchment paper to lift out of the pan. Cut with a large sharp knife into your desired size portions. Use the parchment paper to lift the crisps back up and place it back in the pan. Keep refrigerated until time to serve.



The Heartburn and Glory of Growing Tomatoes

BY MARTHA CANTRELL

We have all read the articles about how wonderful and easy it is to grow tomatoes. What they don't say are the problems that cause growing them heartbreaking. These problems are numerous, but I want to discuss the most common and how they can be prevented.

Early Blight (Lycopersicon)

Description:

Maybe the most common tomato plant disease is caused by a fungus, *Alternaria*. It's most common in the high humidity of our spring and summer months. It starts on the lower leaves as brown spots which get bigger and run together causing the leaves to turn yellow.

The Solution:

- Strip off the lower leaves as soon as you see the problem, slowing down the spread.
- Make sure the ripening tomatoes get a lot of sun and good air circulation with good spacing and pruning.
- Use an organic or bio fungicide to slow or prevent this fungus from spreading to neighboring plants.



Early blight on tomato leaves

Half-Eaten Tomatoes

Description:

I LOVE to attract birds to my garden! Unfortunately, like me, birds LOVE tomatoes! Squirrels also LOVE tomatoes. And if you're like me, I'd rather these guys take the entire tomato with them to go. I want to believe my sweet birdies are taking half of the tomato and leaving me half so as not to be greedy. I think squirrels get a little pleasure out of leaving us only half of the fruit.

The Solution:

- Wrap your plant in bird netting or put net bags around individual fruit.
- These guys might be eating the fruit for the water, so have a bird bath or water feature for them to drink from.
- If they are coming for food, provide them with other yummy things to eat.



Diseased plant

The Heartburn and Glory of Growing Tomatoes (Cont.)

Blossom-End Rot

Description:

This common tomato disease impacts the fruit and is caused by a lack of calcium brought on by dry soil conditions or irregular watering habits. Tomatoes don't like wet or completely dry feet (roots) because it causes them a great deal of stress. And none of us like more stress than we already have!

The Solution:

- Spread a layer of mulch around the plant to help keep moisture in the soil.
- Water deeply a couple times a week but don't waterlog the plant. This will also help avoid cracking fruit!
- Feed your tomatoes regularly with tomato fertilizer to combat the lack or excess of nutrients. This will also alleviate yellowing leaves caused by Nitrogen deficiencies.



Blossom end rot

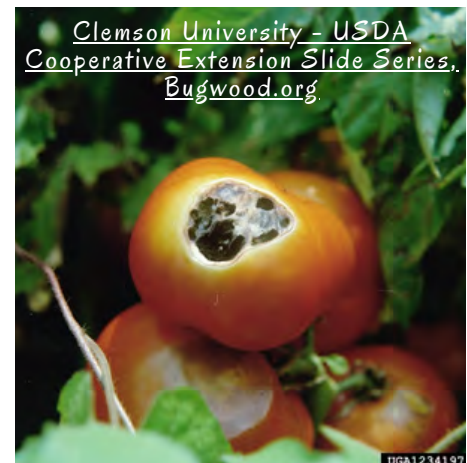
Sunscald

Description:

Description: Here in north Texas, this can be a BIG problem. Since we are just blocks away from the sun, our tomatoes and other plants can get sunscald very easily, like we get sunburned. It will show up on your ripe tomatoes as yellow or white spots on the side of the fruit that faces the sun.

The Solution:

- Put your tomatoes in a place where they don't get the scorching afternoon sun. They still need 6-8 hours of direct sunlight but since our sunrises are early, they can still get enough sunlight without getting that sunburn!
- Drape shade cloth over your tomatoes, using supports, to let in sun but not enough to burn them.
- When it starts to get REALLY hot and the sun becomes more intense, harvest your fruit when they are full-sized and start to change color. At this point, they can ripen just fine in a sunny window inside.



Sunscald

The Heartburn and Glory of Growing Tomatoes (Cont.)

Poor Fruit Set

Description:

Maybe the most frustrating problem when growing tomatoes is when you have A LOT of pretty blooms but few tomatoes and the ones you DO have are puny and not the exception, mouthwatering flavor you dreamed of and expected. The 2 main causes for this heartbreaking problem is too much nitrogen in the later stages of fruit growth and not enough space between plants.

The Solution:

- Use a well-balanced, slow-release fertilizer when planting, like 10-10-10, to help with leaf and plant growth.
- When you see the first flower, begin to add a fertilizer with a lower nitrogen number, like 5-10-10. If you continue with the balanced one at this point, your plant will focus all of its energy on growing lush leaves and lots of them, while not directing its efforts towards producing more flowers and urging them to turn into fruit.
- Spacing and proper pruning, which should be an ongoing priority for tomato gardeners, will help with this problem as well.

Sadly, there are more issues that can make tomato growing a challenge, but the hard work and diligence you put in is SOOO worth it, especially when you produce an abundant, incredible-tasting harvest that you can share with neighbors. For me, biting into a juicy, sweet-tasting tomato that I grew myself far outweighs the extra care it takes to grow it. Be patient and vigil and the rewards will be amazing! Happy tomato growing!

Resources

Missouri Botanical Garden, “Insects, Pests, and Problems in the Garden”

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/insects-pests-and-problems>

Texas A&M University, Aggie-Horticulture, “Tomato Problem Solver, a Guide to the Identification of Common Problems”

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/problem-solvers/tomato-problem-solver/>
Vegetable IPM, Educational Site for Vegetable Gardeners and Vegetable Grower Enthusiast
<https://vegetableipm.tamu.edu/>

Easy Gardening: Tomatoes

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2013/09/EHT-043.pdf>



Gardening Grandma Says...

BY BARBARA BROWN

Humans transitioned from hunting and gathering to growing their food about 12,000 years ago. Over the millenniums 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?

“Scare away rodents from destroying your vegetable garden by using predator urine.”

Truth or myth? Let’s find out.

The historical explanation for using predator urine to keep rodents and rabbits from stealing your garden crops is the belief that the smell of a potential predator nearby will scare them away. This belief has been around for hundreds of years and anecdotal reports of success are posted on social media and some gardening websites. It is a popular enough theory that garden centers and box stores offer to sell fox and coyote urine to customers as a type of repellent called a frightening agent.



The rodents most likely to attack your home garden produce include rats, mice, voles, and squirrels. And, although not a rodent, rabbits also may try to enjoy your garden green crops. Tidbit of trivia: rabbits were classified as Rodentia (rodents) until 1912. They were then reclassified into the order Lagomorpha.

According to the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, “The effectiveness of any particular chemical repellent depends on numerous factors such as the availability of other food items, the stage of growth of the plants to be protected, the abundance of wildlife in the local vicinity, how much time the wildlife has had to become accustomed to consuming the plant before it was treated, and the frequency of reapplication of the repellent. Highest success is likely when a combination of repellents is used, when application is started before damage has begun, and in areas where abundance of the nuisance wildlife species is fairly low.”

Gardening Grandma Says... (Cont.)

Research by the University of California found that scent-based deterrents decreased rodent activity. However, the vegetable-stealing predators habituated fairly quickly to the smell and returned to their produce consumption. Additionally, the University of Massachusetts Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment found that repellents based on animal products work best when plenty of palatable food is available outside of the treated area. They also remind us that, “Repellents suitable for landscape plants are not necessarily safe for edible plants.” Here are their comments and recommendations:



<https://ag.umass.edu/home-lawn-garden/fact-sheets/wildlife-excluding-repelling-problem-wildlife-from-garden>

1. First, identify the pest - or pests - responsible for damage. Choose a repellent designed and labeled for the species.
2. If possible, for best results, apply repellents before damage occurs. Otherwise, take action at the first signs of damage, before the animal becomes accustomed to feeding in your garden.
3. Consider whether to spray the individual plants and/or treat the perimeter of an area.
4. Individual animals have different taste and smell sensibilities, just as people do. One rabbit might run from blood meal sprinkled on the ground and another might hop right through.
5. The number of animals in the population near your garden can affect how much damage occurs. One stray squirrel with plenty of attractive food to eat elsewhere is different from 10 squirrels depleting the local food supply. Repellents may not deter a truly hungry animal.
6. Weather affects some repellents more than others. Monitor closely to determine whether to reapply after each rain or heavy dew.
7. Animals adapt to certain smells and tastes. Changing brands of repellents during the season might increase positive results.

A close-to-home report from DCMGA's FMFB Community Garden tried using fox urine to deter rabbits: “We take tennis balls, soak them (using plastic gloves) with fox urine, and then load them into plastic bottles. We then scatter the bottles throughout the garden where the rabbit problem seems most prevalent. It seems to help, although not a 100% success rate.”

Because you work hard to establish your vegetable garden and enjoy your produce, consider using a combination of deterrents including placing bird netting or row covers over the plants, sprinkling capsaicin around the plants, using motion-activated sprinklers, or placing ultrasonic rat deterrent devices.



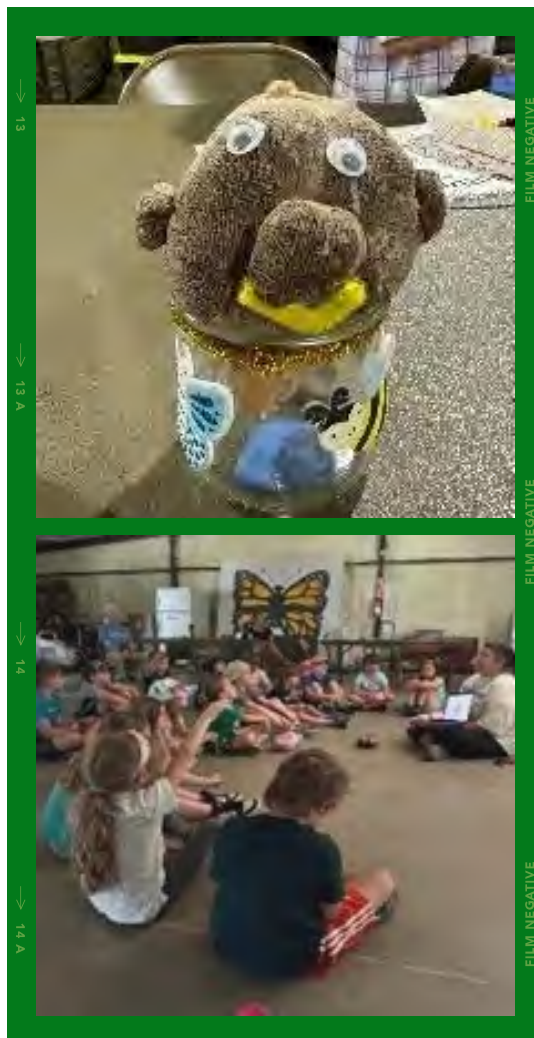
O'SWAt Summer Camp Outdoor Explorers

BY SHARON BETTY, MASTER NATURALIST, CAMP CO-LEADER

If you were anywhere near Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center in Denton during the week of June 17th, you might have heard a little extra joy and laughter as the annual *O'SWAt Camp* was in high gear. Sponsored by Denton County Parks and Recreation, the four-day camp co-led by Brenda Martin, Master Gardener, and Sharon Betty, Master Naturalist, is staffed by SWAt volunteers who are also responsible for program planning and implementation. SWAt has partnered with Denton for over ten years making this camp available to Denton youth ages six to ten. This year's theme was "*Outdoor Explorers.*"

Kicking things off on Monday, campers learned about plant growth and development, emphasizing what plants need to grow and thrive. To practice what they learned, campers created "*Plant People*" to take home and nurture.

Gathered around a makeshift campfire, crickets chirped and coyotes howled as we all became more knowledgeable about wild canines, specifically the coyote. Of course, we had to compare the coyote to its tamer cousins with a visit from the *Denton Therapy Pals*. This organization provides animal-assisted therapy in many locations in and around Denton County including Denton County Juvenile Detention Center, nursing homes, assisted living centers, behavioral health hospitals, as well as local libraries, schools, and universities.



What
Plants
Need...a
Plant
People
Creation

Learning
about
the wild
canine —
the
coyote

O'SWAt Summer Camp (Cont.)

Can you believe it—80,000 bees dropped in! This traveling hive was made possible by Michelle Boerst of *Bursting Bees*. The campers searched through a partially glassed hive for the queen. While she stayed safely hidden away, we all left with a new respect for the honey bee.

Black Land Prairie Raptor Center visited on Friday. The campers were delighted by a screech owl, falcon, kite, kestrel, and a vulture! We all marveled at how much these creatures contribute to the delicate balance of our ecosystem.



Comparing wild vs. tame canines with a visit from Denton Therapy Pals

This traveling beehive is host to some 80,000 honey bees



A visit from Black Land Prairie Raptor Center topped off the week.



2024 Junior Master Gardener Mini Kids Camp at Shiloh

BY NANCY DIMARCO, PROJECT MANAGER, SHILOH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Shiloh Garden and City of Denton, Parks and Recreation once again collaborated to offer a three-day minicamp for children, ages 7 – 11, from 9 am to noon each day. The Camp was June 4 – 6. This was our third consecutive year to offer the camp and we had 12 engaged, enthusiastic, and extroverted campers join us for a multitude of lessons. Our focus this year was Veggiemanía – getting kids to understand all things veggie, learn how to try new things and practice them at home. In addition, we had seven wonderful volunteers to help in any way to make the camp successful. Carin Zeman, Recreation Director for Parks and Rec, transported the children by van each day from Denia Rec Center, so camp could begin promptly at 9 am. Our other volunteers were Rene' Hilliard, 2024 intern, veterans Leslie Koberna and Rhonda McKinzie, Dusty Fife, Agrilife Extension agent, and Pam Peterson, garden manager of the Shepherd's Field in Flower Mound. In addition, one of the grandfathers of one of the children, Terry Hilliard, volunteered on a day his wife wasn't available - that is a responsible family!

Day one consisted of learning that all food we eat has its origin in a plant. We made a sombrero to show the benefits of plants to people, learned the difference between monocots and dicots, and did a plant parts rap!

Day Two lessons helped the children determine the harvest time of vegetables, and we had a beauty contest to rank veggies based on their color, texture, taste, and appearance. Sugar snap peas won! They learned the importance of eating ALL food groups, especially veggies and fruit, and then classified foods into Go, Slow, or Whoa foods. We read Ugly Vegetables and tried unfamiliar veggies like bok choy, and Napa cabbage. Children were introduced to the One Bite Rule – when trying new or unfamiliar foods, you must have one bite! Maybe the next time, you'll have two!



2024 Jr MG Mini Kids Camp at Shiloh (Cont.)

Day three began with a Tour of the Denton Area Food Center with Director, Tom Newell. Mr. Newell shared why the food center exists, how Shiloh plays a significant part in providing fresh fruits and vegetables to those who would otherwise go without, and the impact of the Food Center on Denton. The need volunteers at the Food



Center is his biggest concern. We came back to Shiloh and had a scavenger hunt to identify 12 monocots and 12 dicots in the fastest amount of time. Children ended the day picking blackberries, tomatoes, potatoes, and squash. And because we had had so much rain, the van transporting the children got hopelessly stuck and was rescued by a tow truck from the city!

Next year, the leaders asked if we could expand to 4 days, and we also have plans to begin a Junior Master Gardener program at Shiloh. Kids are the future of gardening, and we want to do our part to ensure there is.



What to Plant in August

- Set out fall garden transplants. This includes broccoli and cauliflower. Protect from heat and sun. Shade cloth is a must for August.
- Direct sow seeds of cucumbers, beans and summer squash for fall harvest.
- Direct sow more beets, carrots and other root vegetables.
- Continue fertilizing all summer vegetables as well as summer flowering plants. Thoroughly water in all fertilizers.
- Watch your garden closely for heat stress. Check your water systems to be sure they are working properly.

For more monthly tips:

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

**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

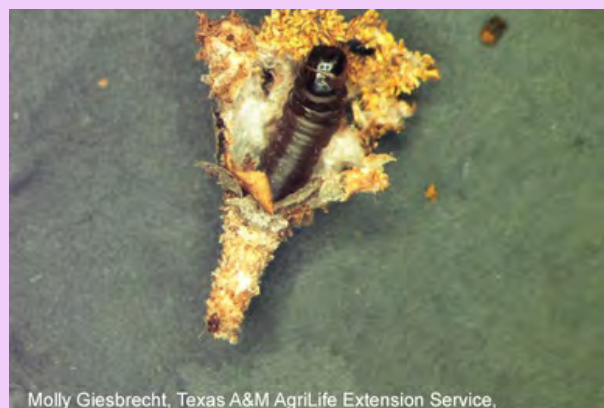
Q: Last fall I hand-picked bagworms off of our juniper tree, but some damage had been done. I want to get ahead of the issue and try to spray BEFORE I see the bags. The worms start out so small, I'm not confident I will see the tiny things before they create their cocoon. Can you advise me on the timing of this? And what kind of spray I should use?

A: Each year many juniper, arborvitae, cypress, cedar, and other cone-bearing plants are lost to bagworms. If your plants were merely damaged last year by bagworms, May-July is when you should be on the lookout for tiny larvae that have hatched from any bags that were missed. These start out only 1/4" long and lower themselves on silken strands to new foliage where they feed while carrying a new bag on their backs. They should be easier to spot now as they continue to feed for about 3-4 weeks and grow to about 3/4" long, while also enlarging the bag they are carrying. Dispersal of bagworms to new host plants can occur when young caterpillars hanging from silken threads are spread by wind or perhaps by birds.

Adult males with short 1/2" long clear wings, hairy black bodies and feathery antennae to seek out females to mate with during this period. Though bagworms only have one generation per year, females can produce 500 to 1,000 eggs which they seal up within their new cocoons once they quit feeding. They tie their bags to twigs of the host plant with a tenacious fiber and seal the top, before dropping to the ground to die.

As you can see, there is only a brief window of opportunity when bagworms are not enclosed in their cocoons which protect them from pesticides. Spray insecticides such as Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), spinosad, or a synthetic product that is labeled for controlling bagworms over the entire tree. If you find yourself picking bags off by hand again next fall, dispose of them in the trash or burning them (do not compost). Also, do not throw them on the ground beneath your plants, as the eggs can still develop into another generation.

While the most common ones are seen on conifers, there are species that feed on roses, live oaks, elms, locusts, maples, pines, sumacs, sycamores, willows, fruit and nut trees and many other ornamental plants. They must be dealt with in the same methods.



Molly Giesbrecht, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

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.



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](#).

DCMGA Members & Interns

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

North Texas Gardening
Timely articles from [DCMGA](#) and [The Root](#)



[Water Conservation \(9/2020\)](#)



[Plant of the Month Chile Pequin \(8/2021\)](#)

[Preserving Your Harvest \(7/2022\)](#)

[Plant Facts - Black-eyed Susan Rudbeckia hirta](#)

[Gardening Basics - Plants That Bring Nature into Your Landscape](#)





August DCMGA Upcoming Events



(Always check the DCMGA Calendar for updated info!)

- Aug 1** **Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden Work Days**
Learn and grow veggies to help the community. Wear comfortable shoes, hat, and sunscreen. Bring water
 1901 Timber Creek flower Mound -- Thursday Mornings 9AM-11AM
- Aug 3** **Introduction into Permaculture**
In this class, you will learn how this works, along with essential guidelines, ethics, principles, and strategies that will wrap your head and heart around this amazing land stewardship lifestyle!
 Global Spheres Center, Corinth 9AM-12PM
- Aug 3** **Rainwater Collection**
Understanding how rainwater behaves on your property will allow you to use it efficiently and experience success in your landscape. You will learn the importance of watersheds and rainwater harvesting, followed by a rain barrel set-up demonstration. Presented in partnership with Beulah Acres Agroforest.
 Global Spheres Center, Corinth 1-4PM
- Aug 5** **Community Strong Farm**
Growing Vegetables for Linda Tutt High School Student Run Grocery & First Refuge Food Bank. All tasks from soil prep to harvesting as the season dictates. We will give short education on the tasks of the day.
 1350 Milam Rd E. Sanger, Monday Mornings 7AM-9AM
- Aug 17** **Veggie Gardening**
Planting your own food is one of the most amazing things you can do! Becoming a successful gardener requires you to "see" and understand your garden. In this class, you will learn about identifying natural patterns in your backyard, assessing what you already have in place, and gardening with efficiency! Even if you never planted veggies and herbs before! Give it a try.
 Partner with Beulah Acres Agroforest. Global spheres Center, 9AM-12PM
- Aug 17** **Beulah Acres Agroforest Composting Class**
Soil quality is key for a prosperous 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.
 Partner with Beulah Acres Agroforest. Global spheres Center, 1PM-4PM
- Aug 22** **Plant Natives from Seeds- Zoom Only**
Sponsored by the Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, George Cates of Native American Seed will help you get the seeds you've been saving started for a great show in the spring. This presentation will be offered via Zoom only.
 7PM-8:30PM Registration Required: Zoom Link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZyodeCtrzoie9LnBQROXc0YymsF2Li5-B4G>

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.



Mission Statement

As Master Gardeners, our mission is to educate and inspire Denton County residents through research-based horticulture, to promote eco-friendly gardens and enduring landscapes that enrich our communities.

Extension EO/EEO Statement

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

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

YouTube:

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

Save the Date

August 14 DCMGA 35th Anniversary Celebration (Members Only)

September 11 DCMGA Monthly Meeting & Program "Steeped in Success: Mastering Tea Cultivation in Texas" by DCMGA Member Lynda Harvey



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Content

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

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