

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

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Educating our Community Face to Face in 2018

By Lorie Grandclair-Diaz

As Master Gardeners, we all know the importance of phone duty. But we also show up to share our gardening expertise in schools, community centers, homes, garden clubs, auditoriums, gardens and churches. Check out these impressive numbers:

- Community Events - Patsy Miller does a great job of recruiting for Community Events. In 2018, we educated over 2,872 people at 44 different events.
- Peter Rabbit Players - Henry Cole and his puppeteers performed for over 2,000 school children and teachers in 2018.
- Japanese Garden Docents - Diane Jones reports that in 2018 they led tours to 639 students and 537 adults.
- Speakers Bureau - Theresa Thomas says that in 2018 the Speakers Bureau gave 181 presentations to over 2,300 individuals.
- Education Committee - Nancy Curl reports that the Education Committee did presentations for 4,890 individuals.

These total 13,238 +. And that total doesn't include events such as the Garden Tour and the Annual Spring Plant Sale where we are actively engaging the public and answering questions. Kudos to all of you who take the time to fulfill our mission by educating our community.



Above left, Sue Kelley & Carolyn Lombard prepare for a Demonstration at the Home & Garden Show.

Above right, Community members show off what they created under the instruction of Robert Faires.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Possumhaw

Possumhaw, Deciduous Holly, *Ilex decidua*, Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family)

Article by Crosstimbers Master Naturalists and NPSOT Member, Josephine Keeney

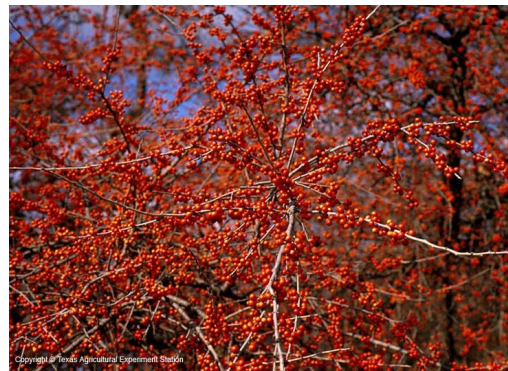
This wonderful shrub or small tree reaches 15-30 feet high and is rather inconspicuous most of the year. It looks very much like Yaupon Holly, which is a relative with a big difference.

Possumhaw is deciduous, and Yaupon is not. It blooms March-May with little white flowers in the leaf axils, and it can grow in full sun to partial shade, preferring plenty of moisture.

These plants are dioecious, meaning that they are not self fertile. The female plant makes the berries, but it needs a male plant somewhere in the area for pollination. The male doesn't need to be really close, since pollen travels a long way.

When you buy this plant, it is best to buy it in the fall when it is in fruit, so you can be sure to get a female. Sometimes the nurseries get them mixed up and you could end up disappointed.

The big show starts in the fall when the berries turn bright orange red and continues in winter when the leaves drop and the tree is ablaze with color. The fruits last until late winter when they get soft and start to ferment. The last show begins when Mockingbirds take possession of the tree and try to chase away all other birds, but they are no match for the Cedar Waxwings that come by the thousands and devour all the berries in a frenzy that lasts only a few minutes.



Content provided by Theresa Thomas



Cut Flower Gardening

By Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Care and handling of cut plant materials, floral preservatives, and special treatments is provided by Jim Johnson, AAF, AIFD, TMF, Director of the Benz School of Floral Design at Texas A & M University, and Kimberly Williams, SAIFD.

from the Sharecropper February 2007 Issue

Garden flowers are more popular than ever for decorating homes. They are particularly fitting in restored homes where the correct flowers for the period of the home can be provided. Garden flowers are not likely to look out of place, as sometimes do exotic blossoms from afar. Not to be over-looked is the economy of having one's own source for cut flowers.

There are several advantages to creating a cutting garden. Where flowers are used in large volume in the home, their removal from borders and other landscaped areas may detract from the intended effect. By providing a special cut flower garden, the gardener can anticipate and plan for these needs without disturbing or diminishing landscape plantings.

The well-planned cutting garden also offers another very practical advantage: annuals and perennials may be conveniently and efficiently grown in rows where they are easily gathered and maintained.

Cutting gardens need not be unattractive, but it is a sensible to plan to locate them in an area where they are not a focal point when not at their peak.

Old-time gardeners often included cut flowers in the vegetable garden where they could tend them easily.

Annuals such as marigolds, zinnias, poppies, sweet peas, bells of Ireland, celosia, nasturtium, globe amaranth, and larkspur were frequently found in vegetable and cutting gardens of our ancestors. Shasta daisies, goldenrod, phlox, and chrysanthemums were especially popular perennials.

Also popular for cutting are certain shrubs such as forsythia, flowering quince, weigela, and mock orange. Foliage from trees, shrubs, and vines such as magnolia, aspidistra, elaeagnus, English ivy, and ferns is useful in floral designs, and is often found in home landscapes.

The formula for floral preservatives is simple. It consists of three prime ingredients:

- Sugar (dextrose, not table sugar). It provides a carbohydrate energy source to can carry on the process of respiration. This helps buds to develop into flowers.
- Biocide controls the growth of bacteria. Without it, the addition of sugar to lukewarm water would increase bacteria which would plug the stems and shorten the life of the cut flower.
- Acidifier lowers the pH of the water and improves the water uptake.

Commercial floral preservatives may be purchased in liquid or powder form at retail florists.

Annuals consists of Baby's Breath, Bluebell, Candytuft, Cornflower, French Hollyhock, Hyacinth Bean, Larkspur, Marigold, Pansy, Pinks, Snapdragon, Sunflower and Zinnia.

Perennials consist of Amaryllis, Aster, Vine, Butterfly Weed, Calla Lily, Canna, Chrysanthemum, Columbine, Coral Vine, Coreopsis, Ferns, Garden Asparagus, Gardens Pinks and Carnations, Gerbera Daisy, Gingers, Gladiolus, Hyacinth, Iris, Leatherleaf Fern, Liatris, Gayfeather, Lily, Mexican Marigold Mint, Narcissus, Daffodils, Obedient Plant, Ornamental Onions, Oxeye Daisy, Penstemon, Purple Coneflower, Purple Loosestrife, Red Hot Poker, Roses of all types, Salvia, Shasta Daisy, Society Garlic, Spider Lily, Stoke's Aster, Summer Phlox, Sunflower, and Yarrow.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

From the President's Corner - Theresa Thomas

Congratulations to all of the interns of the 2018 Class that graduated this January. We are looking forward to working with and along side you. What a fun time you have to look forward to!

At our February 7, 2019 Monthly Meeting we will be having several happenings:

It is our Annual Hotdog Lunch WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2019 INTERNS. The Association will furnish the hot dogs and buns and we are asking all the Master Gardeners that plan to attend to bring a covered dish. Our own Steve Purdy is the hot dog grill master. The Class of 2018 will be helping our new Hospitality Chair, Mary Lou Yost, at the meeting.

We will also be celebrating the retirement of our friend, Dotty Woodson, She retired as the Extension Program Specialist-Water Resources for Agri-Life on January 31, 2019. There will be a special yummy celebration cake.

The Caladium and Elephant Ear Bulb sale starts. You can order both February and March. The deadline for payment is 3/7/19. They will be delivered at the April Monthly Meeting.

Spring Fertilizer and Pre-emergent Herbicide Sale starts at the February Meeting. All preorders must be paid for by 2/28/19. You will to pick up your order at the March meeting.

Our speaker is Julian North from the City of Fort Worth. She will be doing a presentation on Water Conservation Inside and Outside the Home.

Steve Purdy mentioned at the Advisory Meeting that our membership total is currently 404.

Please continue to stay active over this year and the next and the next.

Theresa



Welcome to the New Blue Badges!

Congratulations to our new Tarrant County Master Gardener graduates who received their Blue Badges on January 16! Their first big event as certified Blue Badges will be to help Mary Lou Yost host the hotdog lunch at the February MG Meeting. Please introduce yourselves and thank these hardworking, enthusiastic individuals. They are a wonderful addition to our association.

Welcome Master Gardener Class of 2018!

By Mercy Kettler

Darlene Bortner	Peter Lin	Beverly Sustala
Pepper Briggs	Laura Madsen	Doyle Welch
Paula Campbell	Kay Martinek	Sandra Dolan
Gina Erazo	Cyndy McCoy	Trisha Drago
Dena Harrison	Cheri Mills	Tonya Gentry
Angela Hathaway	Dale Murr	Catherine Greve
Sharon Hidden	Sharon Neel	Isabel Hebert
Ellen Hsieh	Diana Pacheco	Sherrie O'Connor
Bruce Hsieh	Jackie Parker	Donna Parikka
Jim Jenson	Jenny Spencer	Sally Stevens
Larry Lamb	Carolyn St. Clair	Susan Thompson
Virginia Lamb	Elizabeth Staples	

Congratulations!

Important February Dates:

Master Gardener Monthly Meeting Thursday, February 7 10:00am.

President's Day Monday, February 18th. TCMGA offices closed.

Executive & Advisory Board Meeting Thursday, February 21st 9:30am.

Deadline for Fertilizer sale orders is Thursday, February 28th.

The Last Page! Let's Take a Look at Your Garden!

Feedback from membership suggests that you all would like to see more pictures of our gardens, so we're starting with Nancy Taylor's garden. The photos on these two pages were taken in January, so Nancy proves that there is such a thing as winter color in the garden!

Start snapping photos of your garden and email them to Lorie Grandclair-Diaz @ lgrandclair@gmail.com, with the subject line "garden photos".



Above left: Winter Jasmine.

Above right: Pink Bush Nandina.

Left: Abelia.

Right: Mahonia.



Above photo and right: Early blooming daffodils brighten the landscape.



Above: Four Nerve Daisy.

Right: Double Play Ted Spirea.



We are no longer providing project information on the final pages of the Newsletter. Please go to our website, www.tarrantmg.org . On the banner underneath our title you will see TCMGA Projects. When you click on it there will be a drop down menu where you can select Projects Calendar, Projects, or RC Demo Garden. Thank you!