

# Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

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## S.T.A.R.S. Program Enriches Lives

By Avis Ward & Eleanor Tuck

The Green Works is a horticultural therapy project for participants in a Goodwill Industries S.T.A.R.S. (Skills Training Achieves Results) program. The S.T.A.R.S. program is a one-of-a-kind habilitation, non-residential program for adults with significant or multiple disabilities that recreates daily living scenarios. Its mission is to help participants achieve maximum independence and improve their quality of life. The goal of the Green Works program is to use garden-related activities for S.T.A.R.S. participants as an aid to their habilitation process through environmental stimulation, improved self-esteem, motivation for trying new things, and social interaction.

Rotating sub-groups of ten participants from Goodwill S.T.A.R.S clients are transported to the Green Works greenhouse once a week for a 1 hour session where Tarrant County Master Gardeners work with them individually and in small groups to teach basic greenhouse gardening skills like planting seeds, maintaining seed trays, using heat mats, mist benches, and siphon mats. They are also taught how to bump up plants to larger containers. They are taught to use basic garden hand tools like spades and clippers. As edible vegetables mature in plants kept for that purpose, they learn how to harvest and take bucketsful back to their Goodwill classroom and their homes to show what they've helped grow and to consume. They also learn to cultivate flowering plants which are sold at Goodwill Retail Stores and at Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association meetings. Concurrently, participants learn to clean, organize, responsibly use tools and put them away, recycle, and sell.

Please see the online description of the S.T.A.R.S. program and the excellent video featuring Green Works (cursor down the page).

<https://www.goodwillfortworth.org/services/goodwill-s-t-a-r-s-program/>

Photos by Nancy Curl are continued on page 2



## Tarrant County Master Gardeners

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### S.T.A.R.S. participants learn gardening skills



### From the President's Corner

Did you know that the Texas State Legislators meet and review Criteria for funding the different agencies of the State? Extension is one of these Agencies. They look at 3 months of volunteer hours reported and base a large portion of that funding on those volunteer hours. Commissioner's Court and Texas AgriLife do the same types of reviews. When we are not logging our hours, Steve does not have true statistics of the volunteer hours where our Association participates. Funds are left on the table.

We discussed this at our Advisory Board Meeting and in the Executive Board. The decision has been made to go back to having Timekeepers and really track how many hours are worked. We will still use the VMS System, but we want to encourage each of us to report monthly.

Effective July 1st..This new program will begin. Here is the information, it will also be in the E-blast and Steve will discuss at July Monthly Meeting

#### **The Timekeeper's Job Description:**

1. To monitor member's hours monthly.
2. First they will email, then call
3. Encourage members to put in their time...it is their responsibility, with few exceptions.
4. All members regardless of age are required to turn in hours in each respective category

#### **Leave of Absence:**

1. Six months, on a one to one basis, Steve approves.

#### **Reports for Steve**

1. Quarterly Reports of members hours
2. Jayla Fry Annual Report-January 1st-December 31st.
3. Extension Semi-Annual and Year End Reports-September 1st-August 31st

#### **Dividing Names ...very soon you will know who will be your timekeeper**

1. Forty members to a timekeeper

#### **Clarify non-certified hours**

1. Clubs-one hour for monthly meeting
2. Max four hours non-certified per month

#### **Events approved by Steve are certified hours IE: Grapevine Home Garden Tour**

I think we are going to be surprised at the totals as we all move forward and strive to follow the rules. I myself must play catch up, get out my calendar and start logging in my time. I know last year, I was surprised at the number of hours I volunteered, but working with friends and doing the things I love....gardening, makes me happy. Please know that this is a positive move and not only are we helping ourselves, we're supporting our agent.

Have a safe and Happy Fourth of July. See you at our monthly meeting.

Hugs,  
Judy



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Two very Important Questions that arise in the Summer on Water Use  
From Sharecropper June 2013  
by Steve Chaney  
Tarrant County Extension Agent

## 1. How do I water my huge shade trees?

Tree watering is often misunderstood. Laying a hose at the trunk of a large tree and letting it run for hours does not efficiently water a tree. You may have possibly watered China but not the tree! To efficiently water a big tree or shrub, apply water just inside and a little beyond the 'drip line' not at the trunk. The drip line is the area directly below the outermost reaches of the branches. This is where the feeding root system of a tree or shrub is located. Simply lay a slowly running hose on the ground, and move it around the drip line as each area becomes saturated to a depth of eight to ten inches. For very large trees, this watering technique may take several hours.

## 2. I have been watering, but my plants leaves are wilted and yellowing and some have even turned brown. What am I doing wrong?

There is often a fine line between under watering and over watering. The normal answer we give people is you have probably watered too much or too little and it's hard to say which one? Sounds like a silly answer, but both can cause these symptoms in plants. General yellowing (chlorosis) that progresses to brown (necrosis) can be disease related but is often more water related than anything else.

To determine which is the cause, over or under watering, feel the leaves: if the brown leaves are crispy, then under watering is probably the answer; if the brown leaves are pliable (flexible), then overwatering is the most likely culprit. Overwatering can also cause a plant to wilt, just like under watering. Overwatering can over saturate the soil and drives oxygen out of the soil. Without this oxygen, the plants ability to absorb water is reduced; thus, wilting occurs. If this situation continues, the root system begins to rot and the plant health diminishes, thus the yellow and brown leaves. Use that moisture meter of yours (your index finger) to touch the soil and determine when to water. Cool to the touch indicates adequate soil moisture in the soil. Warm, drier soil means it's time to water.

Most plants, both outdoor and indoor, prefer a wet-dry cycle. Water the plant thoroughly, let the soil moisture level dry adequately, and then water again. The health of your plants will increase significantly.

*"Last but not least don't forget our lawns have a drinking problem, and WE are the cause!!"*

Content provided by Theresa  
Thomas



### **Four-nerve daisy** ***Tetaneuris scaposa***

This perennial Four-nerve daisy is a low, upright, silvery perennial up to 1 ft. from a woody base. The solitary stem is much-branched at the base forming a clump. The solitary flower heads occur at the end of silky, leafless stalks. The tip of each yellow ray flower is three-toothed. Four dark purple veins are visible on both sides of the ray. Disk flowers are also yellow. Long, narrow, silvery-green leaves are crowded mostly toward the base.

Four-nerve daisy is heat and drought tolerant. It prefers dry, well-drained soils. The grass-like foliage works well in sunny rock gardens, container gardens and borders. Especially desirable because it blooms often throughout the winter months.

**Bloom Color:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** Mar , Apr , May , Jun , Jul , Aug , Sep , Oct

**Light Requirement:** Part Shade

**Benefit - Use Ornamental:** Perennial garden, Rock gardens, Border, Rocky hillside

**Nectar Source:** yes

**Deer Resistant:** High



Content provided by Theresa Thomas

