

# Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION AGENCY

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## Demonstration Container Garden

By Garden Lead Cheri Mills

This garden was established in 2013 as the Intern Class Project in which all Interns that year participated in the design and implementation of the garden. You will notice that the garden is divided into 5 distinct contained areas and each intern group was responsible for a section. This garden is a good resource for what one in North Texas may want to do in his or her own yard. Over the years the Container Garden has evolved and a few changes made however, you will still see many elements of the original design.

With native perennials like Texas Sage, Lamb's Ear, Butterfly Bush, Lantana, Flame Acanthus, and more, it is an easy to care for garden while still being beautiful. Vines, such as the Cross Vine, Red Honeysuckle, and Carolina Jessamine make a nice backdrop around the perimeter of the space. Trees, which include the Desert Willow, Crepe Myrtle, Dwarf Pomegranates, and Japanese Maple, anchor each space while adding height and depth. The metal art, outside decor, and various pots and containers bring in more texture and annuals are planted each season for added color.

While no longer used as a water feature, the eye-catching fountain located in the middle of the garden shows seasonal plantings.

Of course, humans aren't the only ones who enjoy this garden! It attracts butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds, which makes it nice to sit on the little bench and enjoy being outside.



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## Snapdragon Vine

Snapdragon Vine, Roving Sailor, *Maurandella antirrhiniflora*  
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

By Josephine Keeney, Member of the North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society

This vine has little leaves similar to Ivy and looks fragile, but don't let it fool you, it can climb up to ten feet and develop many side branches enabling it to cover a trellis in a big hurry.

It is a tender perennial that dies to the ground in winter and comes back with renewed vigor in the spring.

Snapdragon vine is not picky about soil types and will be happy in partial shade with a little moisture. You can propagate this vine by seed or cuttings, and it is easy to grow.

But the most amazing feature about this plant are the gorgeous blue-purple flowers that look like snapdragons and bloom abundantly covering the vine with beautiful color that lasts from spring to fall.

In case that wasn't enough it is also a larval host for the beautiful Common Buckeye butterfly.

All in all, this is a very desirable vine for the home or butterfly garden.



### Sanctuary Gardening “Creating a Place of Peace for Man and Beast”

By Ben Oefinger  
Sharecropper, April 2006

How much pain and agony can you take? Frustrations, aggravation, irritation add up day after day. Eventually, we need to find peace, blessed peace. But where? In our own landscapes, that's where! Create a sanctuary space for yourself, regardless of the size of your lot, by incorporating the following elements into your design.

**Entrance** – a special place requires a special entrance, so we realize things are different on the other side. We are entering a safe haven and meandering pathways beckon.

**Water** – Water is key, vital to ensuring that this is a safe haven for all beings. The cleansing source of life, associated with fertility and abundance, water quenches our thirst and awakens our inner child. How can you include it in your sanctuary space?

**Color & Light** – Sunlight and shade, along with color, create mood. Softer hues of pinks, whites, blues, purples, yellows produce a gentle, soothing effect. The healing color of green, in all its myriad shades, is the cornerstone of the sanctuary garden.

**Sitting** – STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN. There is great comfort in being, rather than doing. Sitting still allows us to be in touch with the internal and eternal heartbeat of creation. “Sitting in your garden is a feat to be worked at with unflagging determination and sing mindedness.” (Mirabel Oster)

**Natural Materials** – Whenever possible, use the elements of creation itself, rocks and stones, wood in all its forms, even the wind to anchor yourself to the earth. Fences, trellises, arbors, gates, benches, paths, and wind chimes are all opportunities to connect with our environment.

**Garden Art** = Our sanctuary space is an open canvas for the thoughtful addition of well-crafted art of all kinds. This is an opportunity to add imagination and personal creativity to our surroundings.

**Wildlife Habitat** – “Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace.” (Albert Schweitzer) We must see ourselves not just as gardeners, but as co-creative partners with Nature, loving keepers of the web of life.

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## Fall Vegetable Gardening In Texas, “The Time to Relish”

**Sharecropper, July 2011**

*By Steve Chaney, County Extension Agent*

We have had several Master Gardeners move to the Ft. Worth area in the last few years from different areas of the country and they all seem to say the same thing, TEXAS is different! How do you garden here, it's either cold or hot and nothing in between? Where is Spring, it goes from Winter to Summer and not much in between! By the time my vegetables start to produce it gets so hot that I don't even want to go outside and besides that they are burning up! When is the best time to grow Vegetables?

Believe it or not, fall vegetable gardening starts in July! Cold- sensitive vegetable crops (e.g., pepper, squash, and tomato) must be given time to mature and fruit before the first frost.

“Better late than never” may be an appropriate cliché for some garden tasks but not for fall gardening. You must plant in mid- summer to ensure fresh homegrown vegetables for your Thanksgiving feast. Fall vegetable gardening is very productive and has different and distinct advantages over spring vegetable gardening:

- Vegetable crops are maturing as the days are getting shorter and cooler; the quality of crops, such as broccoli, cauliflower and lettuce is much higher (less chance of bitter taste developing).
- Rainfall is generally more frequent in the fall; thus, watering chores are reduced.
- Insect pest populations are on the decline, not increasing as in spring. (e.g., Squash Vine Borers are rarely a problem in the fall as compared to the spring).
- The weather is cooling off and much more conducive to getting out in the garden.
- To ensure a good crop of warm-season vegetables before the first frost, grow from transplants, not seed. You can often find transplants at local nurseries in 4- or 6-inch pots, if you can find larger transplants buy them as it's often worth the extra cost to shorten the time until harvest.
- Quick establishment of transplants in the garden is critical to success. Even with the hot, dry weather of North Central Texas, these transplants will survive as long as you provide adequate watering to each and every transplant. It will take about 2 weeks for a transplant to establish a large enough root system to begin fast growth of the stems and leaves. During these two weeks you will need to provide light watering daily to the transplants along with a good layer of organic mulch to keep that moisture in and around the plants.
- Drip irrigation is the most efficient method of watering, much more directed and less evaporation. If you don't have access to any type of drip, then create small basins around each plant for these first few weeks. These basins make it easier to apply a pint or so of water daily to each plant, be sure and don't drown these babies or the root system could possibly rot instead of grow.
- After the plants are established well and starting to produce, then the application of the fertilizer of your choice would help to make these plants kick into gear and start producing the loads of vegetables, you're so hungry for all fall. Page 4

### Fall Vegetable Gardening In Texas, “The Time to Relish”

Remember, the most important reason to grow a garden in the fall is often a selfish one – it feels good to us. Working in the garden is much more pleasant in the fall. The heat of the summer is in the past, the garden is much more vibrant and beautiful. As that guru of gardening Dr. Doug Welsh once said, “fall into gardening” once again or for the very first time!!



A note from the editor:

Calling all Demo garden leads! I'd like to focus on a different area of our Demonstration Garden for the next several months. I'll be reaching out for pictures and information, so thanks in advance!

Thanks as always to Theresa Thomas for providing content.

Lorie Grandclair-Diaz