

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

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Common Ground NRH Community Garden

The Common Ground NRH Community Garden is in full swing this year with our “Yes We Can” Empowering Kids Initiative. We have had over 125 students participating in the first four months of 2018 and take pride in our Teaching Garden that benefits our community and the surrounding area. We are teaming up with the NRH Recreation Center this year to implement kids gardening classes held indoors, with hands on education at Common Ground NRH Community Garden.

The Common Ground NRH Community Garden was established in 2010, as a group effort between the City of NRH and Davis Memorial United Methodist Church. They received a 10 thousand dollar grant from Home Depot, and the community showed up to build the garden. In 2011, Master Gardeners Dianne Spradling and Sandra Totty got involved and had the Garden designated as a Tarrant County Master Gardener project.

The Garden donates food to the Davis Memorial United Methodist Church food bank, although that was not a requirement from the church.

For more information on how you can become involved, go to www.nrhcommunitygarden.com, and look under the tab “Certifiable Hours for Master Gardeners”. There is a work day schedule tab with a to do list.

We are a fun group and welcome everyone to participate in keeping our garden a great place to work, play and grow in.

By Dianne Spradling and Lorie Grandclair-Diaz

Pictured below, The Common Ground entrance, and youth at work in the garden. More photos on page 2.



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Common Ground NRH Community Garden photos

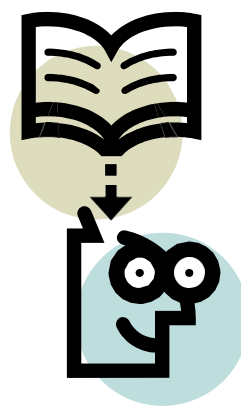
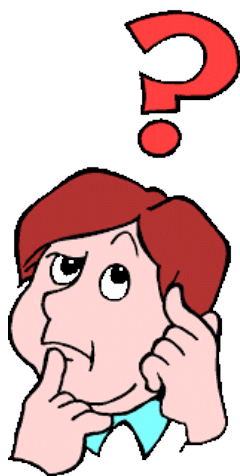


Here's where my memory lapses really show up. There are so many plants to remember and so little brain space left in my head. The plant names I know have devolved into vague descriptions such as Artemisia (that silver plant), Datura AKA angels trumpet (the moon flower like thing) or Forsythia (that yellow flowering shrub).

It doesn't help that many plants are known by many different names: order, family, genus, scientific, common, regional, nickname, ad infinitum. If you ever lived in another area of the US, you may know plants by entirely different names than here. Is it Lady banks or Lady banksia, Hibiscus or Rose of Sharon? My dad always called Evening primrose, bind weed. On the farm if it grew where it didn't belong, it was a weed no matter how pretty it was.

Then other problems "crop up"- spelling, pronunciation and just not hearing it right. Did you know how to spell Elaeagnus, Salvia greggii and Euonymus? And so many others just defy correct spelling and pronunciation unless you're a trained botanist with a capital B. I can't speak for everyone but I have misheard many a plant name. Even one letter or syllable changes the word and not hearing the complete word changes tuberose to tuber-big difference.

We are told to keep our minds agile by learning new things all the time. In my case, I learn but forget everything quickly. There's no way to win the game, age wins. It would be great to be able to access all the data stored in my brain. I need a search button like my computer. But since this is reality we are talking about, I may resort to carrying around a plant book all the time so I can point to pictures and say, "This thing."



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From the President's Corner by Judy Ratzlaff

You know the old saying about the cobbler's kids are the last to get shoes, well that's how it is for Master Gardeners, too. So many places to volunteer and so many gardens need our help and our own garden is the last to get care.

I have had a few days free lately and I'm playing catch up at my own garden. The bulbs are almost planted and the Plant Sale treasure's are in the ground. I absolutely love when I have a break and time to spend in my garden. I don't know about you, but there is a bit of peace and contentment when I am out working hard and doing what I love.

We are taking down a 30 year old redwood deck in preparation for a new concrete deck. Since June is the month of I do's and I will's, I am thinking....what were we thinking!!!! We saved some of the wood for our granddaughter's deck. Removed nails, loaded and ready for her home, 2000lbs of redwood. My thinking is I won't and I can't do that again, but that's part of the adventure as we slowly move forward.

News at our Demonstration Garden....we continue to have leaks with irrigation systems and Robert sure could use some help. The good news is 97 folks are already working on their volunteer hours at our demonstration garden. The other 307 of us need to get in gear and help. If you haven't scheduled some volunteer time at the garden, please do so soon. This is our garden and it sure needs your help. There are things to do for everyone, age and health condition. Where ever you are volunteering, I appreciate your time and dedication. Our association does need and values all you do.

Many of you are on committees as well as volunteering in gardens. My time as your president will be coming to an end with the December meeting as our new officers take over. Committee chairs serve one or two years, so many committees will be changing. Rocky Deutscher, Debby Stevenson and Debbie Rasmussen will be the returning officer's.....if you are interested in serving on the Advisory Board, please let them know. When the new President and 2nd Vice President are voted in, the President, with the help of the board will begin choosing the members of the new board. It's never too early to let folks know you have a desire to serve.

Rocky and I will be gone for the June meeting, Sue Kelley will be in charge of the meeting. Henry Cole will be choosing silent auction items for me to purchase as I support you from the Outer Banks of North Carolina at the Ratzlaff siblings reunion.

Hope to see you in the garden...that's where I am headed now...my garden. I'll have you all out for cookies and drinks when we finish our project.

Until then, hugs,

Judy



Volunteer Opportunities by Patsy Miller

Volunteer Opportunities --Master Gardeners are being invited to participate in a number of local events in the coming months. If you would like to volunteer, contact Patsy Miller. Please give me the date, event and shift.

Thursday, June 21 – Tarrant Regional Water District Employee Health Fair, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Norris Conference Center, 304 Houston St., Fort Worth. Shifts: 7:30 a.m.(setup)-11:30 a.m. and 11:30-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 30 – AARP The New 50+: It's A Mindset, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Grand Hall North Richland Hills Centre, NRH. Shifts: 10:30 a.m. (setup)-1 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.

Saturday, July 14 – Tarrant Food Bank Dig Deep Conference, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., University of North Texas Health Science Center, 1000 Montgomery, Fort Worth. Shifts: 7:30 (setup)-noon; noon to 4:30. Volunteers invited to attend the various talks.

Saturday, July 21 – Cowtown Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Weatherford Traffic Circle, 3821 SW Blvd., Fort Worth.

Saturday, July 21 – Viridian Artisan Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 1210 Viridian Park Lane, Arlington (FM 157). Shifts: 7:30 a.m. (setup) -10:30 a.m.; 10:30-1 p.m.

Saturday, August 18 --Viridian Artisan Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 1210 Viridian Park Lane, Arlington (FM 157). Shifts: 7:30 a.m. (setup) -10:30 a.m.; 10:30-1 p.m.

Saturday, September 15 -- Cowtown Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Weatherford Traffic Circle, 3821 SW Blvd., Fort Worth.

Saturday, September 15 ----Viridian Artisan Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 1210 Viridian Park Lane, Arlington (FM 157). Shifts: 7:30 a.m. (setup) -10:30 a.m.; 10:30-1 p.m.



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Mealy Blue Sage

Salvia farinacea

Salvia farinacea Benth.

Mealy blue sage, Mealy sage, Mealeycup sage

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

Content Provided by Theresa Thomas

Synonym(s): *Salvia earlei*, *Salvia farinacea* var. *farinacea*, *Salvia farinacea* var. *latifolia*

information provided from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

This 2-3 ft. upright or sprawling perennial, usually forms a mound as wide as the plant is tall. Mealy sage is named for the mealy-white (sometimes purple) appearance of the sepals, which are covered with felted hairs. The blue flowers are 5-lobed and 2-lipped, 2/3-3/4 inch long, with 2 stamens and 1 pistil. They have the usual sage fragrance. The long, narrow leaves grow in clusters, out of which grow the flower stems. The leaves may or may not have teeth. Dark-blue to white, tubular flowers are densely congested in whorls along the upper stems, creating a 3-9 in. spike. Gray-green, lance-shaped leaves are numerous, especially in the lower portion of the plant.

Plant Characteristics

Duration: Perennial

Habit: Herb

Size Class: 1-3 ft.

Bloom Information

Bloom Color: Blue

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

Water Use: Low

Light Requirement: Sun

Soil Moisture: Moist

Soil pH: Acidic (pH<6.8)

Soil Description: Limestone soils. Calcareous, Limestone-based, Caliche type, Sandy, Sandy Loam, Medium Loam, Clay Loam, Clay.

Conditions Comments: Mealy blue sage grows well in perennial borders and wildflower meadows. The foliage is aromatic and deer resistant. When new basal foliage appears, cut the old flower stems to keep the plants lush. Will bloom off and on throughout the summer. Butterflies and hummingbirds enjoy the nectar. Mealy blue sage provides an attractive mass of color in beds, borders and naturalized areas. Wet soil will make the plant leggy and weak.

Benefit

Use Ornamental: It is an excellent plant for a flower bed, and is often planted in groupings to create an attractive mass of color. The leaves have a grayish cast which make a very good contrast to lush green foliage of other plants. It is a good plant for a rock garden. Showy,

Mealy Blue Sage continued

Blooms ornamental, Mass planting, Perennial garden.

Use Wildlife: Nectar-Hummingbirds, Nectar-Bees

Conspicuous Flowers: yes

Fragrant Flowers: yes

Fragrant Foliage: yes

Attracts: Butterflies , Hummingbirds

Nectar Source: yes

Deer Resistant: High

Value to Beneficial Insects

Special Value to Native Bees

This information was provided by the Pollinator Program at [The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#).

Propagation

Propagation Material: Seeds , Softwood Cuttings

Description: Propagate by seed or cuttings.

Seed Collection: Collect the seeds as the capsules begin to dry but before they have dropped the seeds. Spread seeds in thin layers to dry a few days before storing in sealed, refrigerated containers.

Seed Treatment: Generally, a cold-moist stratification period is required for germination of Salvia seed. This species does require light for germination.

Commercially Avail: yes

Maintenance: After an extended period of flowering, you may wish to prune it halfway back to produce thicker, more compact foliage and a shorter flowering plant. Pruning may delay flowering for several weeks, but it is important in preventing leggy plants.

Find Seed or Plants

[Order seed](#) of this species from Native American Seed and help support the Wildflower Center.

[Find seed sources](#) for this species at the Native Seed Network.



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

State Awards by Eleonor Tuck

State Awards

When you've worked in the office, have you ever wondered where or how we have achieved all those plaques on the walls? Well:

To compete in the Annual State Awards, we must be up to date in our State MG membership and our dues payments. The State Awards Committee provides a Handbook of Guidelines and due dates—which vary from year to year.

One of the components of the Guidelines is our total membership—we compete with 8 other counties whose membership exceed 200 members. These counties are Harris, Bexar, Dallas, Denton, Galveston, Montgomery, Comal and Collin.

The forms we are required to use provide limitations such as when we describe the project being entered, we are limited to 150 words. Our eloquence is not always helpful!!

Judging of all of the award entries is done by Agents in other States—this is a major step taken by Jayla Fry, our A&M MG Coordinator to try to assure fairness and objectivity. AND it is a step taken and encouraged by Ginger Bason when she was State MG President.

There are 8 categories in which we may choose to enter:

Youth—a MG program that coordinates Junior Master Gardener (JMG) groups, activities and service learning program/project. For 2017, we entered the JMG program at Durham Intermediate School. **Our association was awarded 3rd place for this 2017 JMG program. Congratulations to the Durham team!**

Project—a project at a physical location—should (must) display best horticultural practice for educational purposes. For 2017, we entered the community gardens at Common Ground North Richland Hills.

Educational Program—recognizes a teaching opportunity and for 2017, we entered the new STAR program: Skills Training Achieves Results. The program is still new and needs more of the stories and statistics documenting its accomplishments—next year!!

Written Education—printed material created/written by Master Gardeners as a tool for education (note that it is specific to who writes it—in the olde days, the Agent could write the award). For 2017, we entered the design and construction for the Monarch Butterfly Waystation, written by Interns, at the Common Ground Gardens.

Research—a project with applied methodology conducted by Master Gardeners with Extension oversight. We did not enter for 2017.

Marva Beck Junior Master Gardener Leader of Year—may be a Master Gardener or Extension person-

State Awards continued

nel and demonstrates effective leadership in support of JMG. For 2017, we put forth Henry Cole in recognition of the continuous educational work he is doing with/for JMG program.

Marva Beck was our State MG President a few years ago and was extremely supportive of the beginning JMG program and she is a great person, too!

Outstanding Master Gardener—must demonstrate involvements and contributions of prime importance. We nominated Robert Faires, who had just completed his Intern year, was certified, and began working wholeheartedly in TCMGA. He volunteered 1020.5 hours, and worked in 11 areas of the Association's endeavors.

Outstanding Association—recognizes MG Associations that completes one or more projects/programs of import to the Community and must include 2 or more MGs and may be an ongoing project/program. In 2017, we volunteered 42,000 hours and drove 363 + thousand miles. We celebrated our 30th Anniversary and were also recognized for our water conservation programs and number of persons contacted. **Our association was awarded 3rd place for Outstanding Association in our membership category. Congratulations to us!**

Next time you are at the office for phone duty, check out our newest award certificates and look at all the impressive state awards we have earned! Our Association makes an impact all over Tarrant County through your efforts.

