

Sharecropper

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association



July 2012 Inside this Issue

Agent's Corner	1
President's Message	4
TCMGA Meeting Minutes	5
Cedar Hill Field Trip	6
TCMGA Announcements	7-8
TCMGA Calendar	9
2012 RC/CG Garden Classes	10
2012 AgriLife Extension Seminars	11
Volunteer Opportunities	12

AGENT'S CORNER

Understanding Natural Fertilizers

By Steve Chaney, Texas AgriLife Extension, Tarrant County

If you want to have a healthy, productive garden the first key step is to build great soil. Many gardeners make the mistake of looking first to fertilizers, tonics, or a multitude of miracle working concoctions to produce great plants. There is no long-term substitute for proper soil building. If your soil is poorly drained, too acidic or alkaline, compacted, low in organic matter or has poor structural characteristics, it doesn't matter how much fertilizer you add, the results will be disappointing.

Build your soil first and then fertilizers can play their proper role in promoting plant health and production. Fertilizers are most effective when used to fine tune a soil situation that is already working relatively well. Healthy soil grows healthy, productive plants and is the place where any great garden begins.

Start by adding compost to improve the soil's structure, internal drainage and water holding ability. It stimulates soil microbes and breaks down to feed plants gradually over time. If drainage is at all in question, build raised planting beds to insure that plant roots don't sit in soggy wet conditions.

Have your soil tested to determine the pH and nutrient levels. This provides the basis for correcting deficiencies and preventing nutrient excesses or imbalances. When you get the soil right, plants will naturally thrive. Once the soil has been properly prepared it is time for planting and any fertilizer additions. I just want to stress that fertilizer is a wonderful thing for fine tuning plant health and stimulating maximum production, but is not a fix-all for poor soil conditions.

Compost and manure are soil conditioners that build the soil. While they contain nutrients, their nutrient content is fairly low and as such they are generally not considered fertilizer. Some animal manures (such as poultry manure) are more potent and as such are sometimes formulated into fertilizer blends, but most should be viewed more as a soil amendment.

Natural vs. Organic

The focus of this article is on natural fertilizers as opposed to synthetic products. Sometimes the words natural and organic are used interchangeably but this is not correct. Not everything of natural origin can legally be called organic. Some fertilizers are officially designated as organic, a term reserved for those products that meet strict requirements, originally specified by the Texas Department of Agriculture and now superseded by the USDA's organic regulations. As a result, many natural products are not officially certified as organic.

Rather than get tied up in official laws and regulations, I will simply focus on products that are natural in origin to distinguish these fertilizers from

(Continued on page 2)

If you have an idea or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Jackie Heidinger

rheidinger@tx.rr.com



“synthetic” or “chemical” products. Growers wanting to produce vegetables and fruits organically will need to verify a particular fertilizer’s status before using it on their crops.

Why Use Natural Fertilizers

Natural fertilizers are typically lower in nutrients than their synthetic counterparts. They also tend to be more expensive per unit of nutrient. Additionally, plants take up nutrients in their basic form, not in a synthetic or organic form. Thus whatever type of fertilizer you use, it will have to break down into the same basic elements for plants to be able to take those elements up.

So why use a natural fertilizer? One reason for gardeners wanting to grow things naturally is simply the fact that they are natural as opposed to synthetic. Gardening is a hobby and source of enjoyment and fulfillment. It is generally not a means to survival and so a few dollars on a natural fertilizer is not significant when you consider that gardening is really a quite inexpensive hobby...or at least it can be, right?

Synthetic fertilizers release nutrients rapidly in most cases, and are often salt based. Thus they can burn plants, something very few natural products will do. The natural fertilizers release their nutrients gradually as they break down by microbial action. This extends the nutrient release to gradually provide plants nutrition over time. It also helps to reduce water pollution through runoff and leaching. In recent greenhouse turf studies at Texas A&M University, several natural fertilizers produced a top quality turf and had much lower rates of runoff and leaching than several synthetic blends tested.

Natural products stimulate soil microbial activity and in a small way add organic matter to the soil. They contribute to the process of building soil. They are not just 3 major elements in a bag of filler but being derived from once living materials contribute micronutrients and often other plant growth stimulating substances.

Types of Natural Fertilizers

Natural fertilizers may be divided into three basic categories based on their origins: plant based, animal based and minerals. Plant based fertilizers include alfalfa meal, corn gluten meal, cottonseed meal, and kelp meal. Animal based fertilizers are primarily a byproduct of the meat processing industry and the commercial fishing industry. Common animal based fertilizers include blood meal, bone meal, feather meal, fish meal and fish emulsion. Mineral fertilizers are mined from the earth. They include greensand, gypsum, lime, soft rock phosphate, and potassium magnesium sulfate. Let’s take a look at these natural fertilizers individ-

ually.

Alfalfa Meal is used for animal feed. It contains about 3% nitrogen and makes a good low concentration fertilizer. I have even used pelletized rabbit feed in the garden as it is much the same as alfalfa meal.

Blood Meal is a byproduct of slaughterhouses. The blood is collected, dried and powdered. It is very rich in nitrogen (about 12%) and in fact is a top choice among natural products when only nitrogen is needed. It also contains trace elements including iron. This however is one natural product that can burn plants if used in excess, so take care to not over apply it.

Bone Meal comes from the slaughterhouses and is one of the better known natural fertilizers. It contains about 12% phosphate, most of which is available. This makes it a good choice for a fairly quick fix. Many soils already contain high levels of phosphorus, which leads to iron tie up and subsequent iron deficiency of the plants. Take care not to overuse this “middle number” on the fertilizer label, and base any phosphorus additions on soil test results.

Corn Gluten Meal is derived from grain corn. It is high in nitrogen, containing about 10% and as such makes a great supplement for many garden and lawn uses. It also has some weed deterrent qualities, so you should take care when using this product in a garden where seeds may be planted within a couple of months.

Cottonseed Meal is a byproduct of the cotton industry. It is used in producing livestock feed but also makes a great fertilizer. It tends to be somewhat acidifying, a very positive trait for gardeners in the western 2/3’s of the state or for east Texas gardeners growing azaleas, camellias, and blueberries. It is a good source of nitrogen and generally has a nutrient content of about 6-2-2.

Feather Meal is acquired from the poultry industry. The ground material is high in nitrogen (approximately 12%) but is in a form that is very slowly available. Therefore it is more effectively used for long term nitrogen supplementation rather than as a quick fix for a growing crop of vegetables.

Fish Meal contains about 10% nitrogen. It is very useful in giving plants a boost of this primary nutrient. I like to mix some into the soil prior to planting and also use it to side dress plants when they need a little extra vigor.

Fish Emulsion is made up of finely ground fish parts that have been partially decomposed. It is high in nitrogen and trace elements. Specific nutrient content is about 5-1-1 but varies considerably among

various manufacturers and depending on how it is processed. This product is a favorite for both soil application and foliar feeding when diluted properly. The older types had an odor that let the neighborhood know you had fertilized and would most likely have every cat in town salivating big time. The odor dissipates in a couple of days, but you would not want to use it on indoor plants for sure! Newer formulations are available which have been pretty much deodorized.

Greensand is a clay type mineral, also known as glauconite, which contains about 5% potash. The nutrient is tightly bound up in the compound and is only very slowly available. It is much better suited to long term soil building than quick fix results.

Kelp Meal is basically seaweed that has been dried and ground. It is low in nutrients, containing about 1% nitrogen and 2% potash, but it also contains magnesium, sulfur and many trace elements. There are also many seaweed extracts that are popular as a foliar applied product.

Gypsum is most commonly promoted as a way to “fix” tight clay soils. However it works only on clays that have high levels of sodium which destroys soil structure resulting in tight, poorly drained soils. Gypsum knocks the sodium off the soil particles replacing it with magnesium and thus leading to better structure. Gypsum will not help just any clay. It provides the nutrients calcium and sulfur and is a good way to supplement these nutrients when they are lacking.

Lime is basically a source of calcium and a way to raise pH in an acid soil. It is mined from the earth and is primarily needed in the east Texas areas where acidic soils prevail. Dolomitic lime also contains magnesium, another element often lacking in the acid sands of east Texas.

Soft Rock Phosphate is mined from ancient marine deposits. It contains about 30% phosphate but most is unavailable to plants at any given time. In fact only 1 to 2% is available. Very slowly over time this phosphate is released to the soil solution where plants can receive the nutrients. This is a good long term solution in soils where phosphorus is lacking.

Potassium Magnesium Sulfate is also known as langbeinite. It is mined from the earth and ground for sale as a fertilizer. This fertilizer contains 22% potash as well as 18% Mg and 27% sulfur. Companies often process this material into various forms, which are thus a bit less “natural” perhaps than the mined form. Sul Po Mag and K Mag are two common brand names of potassium magnesium sulfate fertilizer.

tilizers with popular ratios of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. For most purposes in most areas of the state, in the absence of a soil test a good rule of thumb is to apply a 4-1-2 or 3-1-2 blend of nutrients. This avoids adding too much phosphorus, while provides nitrogen, which is almost always needed and potassium, which is also often needed.

Many of these natural fertilizer products are available in local garden centers. Others may not be locally available. Buying them by mail order can be expensive. In such cases it is often best to make do with locally available products. Plant nutrition is not an exact science and although it is easy to get lost in the numbers just remember that well built soil is very forgiving and exact blends are not essential.

Conclusion

Natural fertilizers can be an integral part of a good soil building program for your garden and landscape. Along with compost additions and soil testing they provide the basis for a healthy productive garden.

Remember to start with a soil test to determine your soil's current nutrient status and needs. Build soil prior to planting and continue to improve it by amendments and proper fertilizing each time you transition from one crop to another.

While some natural fertilizers provide a quick fix, similar to the way synthetic products can, most are part of a long-term solution. The goal is to build soil that need few additional inputs rather than soil dependent on a continual series of “quick fixes”. Gardeners who want to garden naturally are willing to build their gardens over time recognize the value in such an approach. They will enjoy the benefits for years to come in terms of great soil, healthy plants, and productive gardens.

Blends are combinations of ingredients formulated into fer-

Dear Gardener Friends,



Wow, what a difference a year makes. This year Mother Nature has blessed us with more rain. Our gardens and trees are thankful as they prepare to endure the summer heat.

I hope you had as much fun as I did at our Annual Garage Sale in June. The project presentations and the mini classes gave us a taste of the knowledge and commitment to education by our members. Thank you to all **project chairs** and mini-session teachers.

Thank you **Claire Alford** for organizing the event and **Theresa Thomas** and your helpers for executing her vision. Thank you **Shirley Mills** and your hospitality team for coordinating lunch. Thank you **Dave Wilson** for another delicious BBQ meal. Thank you **Donna Fry**, **Susan Stanek** and your team for managing the garage sale and general silent auction area. Thank you **Pam Braak** and your team of **cashiers** as we paid for our treasures. **You** made this event successful through your attendance and participation. The projects benefit from the additional income and volunteers. Thank **YOU!**

The July monthly meeting will be **Thursday, July 5** (day after 4th of July.) As a holiday week, we would like to try a different meeting format. Members are encouraged to come between 9 – 10 am and enjoy brunch. The general business meeting will begin at 10 am with officer and chair reports and unfinished business of voting on the nominees for the nominating committee. Members will vote by ballot for 4 nominees from a list of six (6) members (so far.) The complete list of names can be found in the July Sharecropper.

While the ballots are being counted by **Steve Purdy**, membership chair, we will enjoy our July speaker. At the conclusion of the speaker's program, the results of the ballots will be announced and we will wrap-up the business meeting. We anticipate the meeting will close by 12:30 pm.

The TCMGA will host a **Regional Conference Saturday, October 13**. Many of the speakers have been identified; however, we are still in the planning phase. There are many areas of need for a conference this size and everyone is welcome to be a part of this event. If you are unable to participate in the planning phase, mark your calendar to either volunteer or attend the day of the conference. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

The **2012 Interns** have been busy working on their group project at the Botanic Garden Children's Vegetable Garden with the help of their intern advisor, **Ron Schlitzer**. Their project will be the center-piece to the renovated BG CVG. You will be amazed at the transformation of this garden. The Interns have also been volunteering around Tarrant County at numerous TCMGA projects.

The word is out.....Tarrant County Master Gardeners are great! The requests for Master Gardener speakers have doubled for the year as well as requests to attend various farmer's markets and events.

Do **you** like to talk to people about gardening or garden-related topics, but you're worried you don't know enough about your topic to speak on the subject? As a Master Gardener, you have more knowledge about gardening than the average person, plus access to research-based information and power point presentations on a variety of topics. Become a part of the **Speaker's Bureau**. Contact **Camille Thomason** to be added to the SB email list.

Would you like to take a **Specialist Class** on a subject that interests you? It takes a little extra effort, but the knowledge you receive is invaluable. I recently attended a Propagation Specialist class with a good friend. We had a great time, learned a lot and have applied techniques we learned with more success than we imagined. Plus, we look forward to sharing what we learned with others in the coming months.

A list of Specialist classes can be found on the Texas Master Gardener website (tarrantmg.org). Check them out and plan to attend. The TMG offers a small reimbursement and the TCMGA offers a partial reimbursement to help with expenses. Guidelines can be found on the TMG and TCMGA websites.

Our lives are busy but don't forget to smile, laugh, and enjoy time with family and friends every day.

See you in the garden!

Nancy Curl, President
Tarrant County Master Gardeners

This meeting is our annual garage sale and silent auction. There was no other program.

President Nancy Curl called the meeting to order at 11:05am. She welcomed all visitors and members in attendance. Attendance was 203 certified Master Gardeners, Interns and visitors.

Executive Board

The May minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Claire Alford, First Vice President, was not in attendance. President Curl thanked her for all her hard work making the garage sale a success.

Pam Braak, Treasurer, informed us of the final profit from the plant sale. \$4662 will be divided between the Community Garden and all projects, with 75% going to the Community Garden. All income from the garage sale will go to projects.

The Treasurers Report For the Month Ended May 31, 2012	
Cash, Beginning 5/1/2012	38,582.09
Deposits during month	2,178.90
Checks during month	<u>(2,581.10)</u>
Cash, Ending 5/31/2012	<u>38,179.89</u>

There were no questions and the treasurer's report was filed.

Steve Chaney was away at a conference.

Committee Reports

Field Trips, Patsy Miller The Lavender Farm field trip will be June 28. Please sign up now. There is no charge. Everyone is encouraged to carpool

President Curl Thanked Dave Wilson for the BBQ. She also thanked Hospitality for their hard work, plus Donna Fry, Susan Stanek and their helpers for the great job on the garage sale.

Raffle, Donna Fry, The raffle will be held in July and the prizes are a shredder chipper and a \$100 Calloways gift card. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

Awards Committee, Eleanor Tuck Tarrant County once again won many awards at the state conference. We won first place for best organization, individual (Nancy Curl), website, education, exhibit and poster. Second place for project (Common Ground), newsletter and brochure (Informational guide to cactus and succulent garden). Third place for Mass Media ("Survive and Thrive" article in 360WEST). Eleanor thanked her committee

for all their hard work. She also pointed out that these selections are made by judges from out of state.

No pending business

Nominating Committee, Sue Ellen Schlitzer presented the criteria for being on the nominating committee

1. You must be certified and in good standing
2. You must be certified for at least 1 year
3. You cannot have been on previous year committee
4. General Members can elect four members

The nomination was opened and proceeded as follows

- Eleanor Tuck nominated Ginger Bason
- Shirley Mills nominated Theresa Thomas
- Pam Braak nominated Patsy Miller
- Ron Schlitzer nominated Dave Wilson

Sue Ellen also notified us that Susan Stanek and Warren Tinsley wanted to be on the committee. The nominations will remain open, please notify Sue Ellen if you want to be on the ballot. We will have a written ballot at the July meeting.

President Curl informed the meeting that we will be trying something different in July. From 9-10 there will be the usual visiting with a light brunch available. The business meeting and voting for nominating committee will begin at 10am. Our program will begin around 10:20am and last about an hour during which time votes will be counted. At the end of the program the committee members will be announced and the meeting will be adjourned. There will be no lunch.

Regional Meeting We will be hosting a regional meeting here on Oct 13, 2012. A planning meeting will be held June 20. Please come if you are interested in helping.

Garden Conservancy still needs suggestions

Ed Vaughan is going to assisted living and would love funny cards.

Kim Freeman is still at Baylor Rehab

Gailon Hardin will be undergoing treatment for breast cancer. It was caught early and she anticipates a full recovery. She needs people to work at the Southwest Court House.

Meeting was adjourned at noon.

**Respectfully Submitted by
Donna Morris, Secretary**



The trip to Cedar Hill State Park gave Master Gardeners the opportunity to go back in time when this area of North Texas beckoned new settlers with its rich soils and abundant grasses of the Texas Blackland prairie. Park Interpreter Michelle Varnell painted a word picture of the plant life in the 1800s.

The park is refuge to five native tall grass prairie remnants that are federally listed as endangered. The tall grass prairie remnants are the most important natural resource in the park -- dominated by Indian grass, little bluestem, big bluestem, sideoats grama, switch grass and other native grasses.

The prairie grassland competed with native plants such as purple coneflower, trout lily, Engelmann daisy, blue bell, blue sage and downy paintbrush. And it surprised many of us to learn that the favorite Indian paint brush is the host plant for chiggers!

Down the road at Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center once near extinct species such as the golden cheeked warbler and its favorite home -- the Ashe juniper thought to be only in the Hill Country -- have been discovered at this 200-acre center. Like Cedar Hill State Park, it is East meets West ecosystems with a huge stand of East Texas dogwoods existing with black-chinned hummingbirds of West Texas. It is also home to three species of rare *Hexalectris* orchids. The center's educator Marty Copeland entertained MGs with a few of her personal sightings and a bird call or two!

Master Gardeners took the opportunity to take a hike on the audubon center trails or came back to Cedar Hill State Park for lunch on the shore of Joe Pool Lake.

The most frequent comment heard was "I never knew about this place. I plan on coming back."



July Guest Speaker

The guest speaker for July's TCMGA meeting will be Troy Mullens. Troy is a lifelong naturalist and environmentalist with a M.S. in Biology. He is a member of many organizations including:

- Native Plant Society
- BRIT (Botanical Institute of Texas)
- Texas Master Naturalists
- Audubon Society
- Nation Wildlife Federation
- Wilderness Society
- Sierra Club
- Texas Invaders
- Xerces Society

Troy will be speaking to us about our "Friends in the Garden". Specifically, he will address the importance of pollinators and other animals in today's garden. Much of what we eat requires pollinators or "Natures Helpers". Many of the insects and other pollinators are threatened by the very humans that rely on them. Bigger fruit, flowers and vegetables are a result of a balanced ecosystem. He will discuss how to achieve this balance.

Raffle Committee Update

The new item for the raffle is a McCullough Electric Chipper/Shredder. It will chip limbs up to 2" and shred leaves and shrub trimmings to produce great materials for your compost bin. The retail value is \$250. Or you can choose to bid on a \$100 gift certificate from Calloways. We will begin selling tickets again in August.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Remember, all proceeds from the raffle benefit our MG projects.

Donna Fry
Raffle Committee Chairman

2012 LEADERSHIP

President: Nancy Curl
nl_curl@yahoo.com

1st VPresident: Claire Alford
caagardner@aol.com

2nd VPresident: Linda Hawkins
lindahawkins@gmail.com

Secretary: Donna Morris
morrisd1@swbel.net

Treasurer: Pam Braak
P.braak@verizon.net

Acknowledgements: Pat Lovejoy
palovejoy@att.net

Activities: Patsy Miller
pjmiller24@sbcglobal.net

Awards, Local: Jody Puente
Mjpuente@msn.com

Sunshine: Doris Hill
artanddoris@verizon.net

Bulletin Board: Theresa Thomas
kayleetl@sbcglobal.net

Garden Resource: Dave Wilson
ldwilson98@yahoo.com

Historian: Jackie Peel
jackiepeel@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality: Shirley Mills
smills72@att.net

Membership: Steve Purdy
spurdy06@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter: Jackie Heidinger
rheidinger@tx.rr.com

Nominating: Sue Ellen Schlitzer
S.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net

Photography: Sally Harris
sallyjanharris@mac.com

Projects Coordinator: Judy Ratzlaff
judy_ratzlaff@yahoo.com

Raffle: Donna Fry
dfry1212@hotmail.com

Website: Jackie Heidinger
webmaster@tarrantmg.org

Nominating Committee Update

The July meeting will be the last opportunity to nominate your candidate to serve on the 2012 Nominating Committee. Final nominations will be sought followed by voting.

Names presented thus far are:

Ginger Bason (2002)
 Patsy Miller (2010)
 Susan Stanek (2003)
 Theresa Thomas (2009)
 Dave Wilson (2000)

If you know someone who would be good committee member, please check with the person before making the nomination. If you are interested in the position, you may self-nominate or have a Master Gardener from the floor nominate you.

Committee guidelines, according to our bylaws, are as follows:

- Nominees should be certified members (blue badges) in good standing. They should have completed their certification requirements and paid their 2012 dues.
- Nominees should have been certified for at least one year.
- Nominees should not have served on the Nominating Committee during the previous year.
- The general membership shall elect four members, two of whom may be from the Executive Board.

The nominations will be kept open until the General Meeting on July 5, 2012, when the membership will cast their votes. Please give your thoughtful consideration to nominations.

Sue Ellen Schlitzer
 Nominating Committee Chair



HAPPY BIRTHDAY GARDENERS!

July Birthdays

4 Talley Scott, Julie Brown (I)
 5 Don Graves, Linda Stuard
 6 Barbara Finholt, Char McMorrow (I)
 7 Flora Dalegowski
 10 Rebecca Danvers, Pat Engel(I)
 16 Emily Reynolds
 18 Doris Hill
 19 Joyce Hallbauer
 20 Peggy Falconer
 22 Catherine Vollmer
 23 Bev Nelson
 24 Tammy Edwards
 27 Ron Schlitzer, Theresa Kay Thomas
 28 Diane Geiser(I)
 30 Sally Simpson
 31 June Gernhauser

If your birthday is this month and you don't see it, please contact
Doris Hill, (817) 337-8484 or email

Directory Changes

Please note the following TCMGA Directory Changes:

- Ed Vaughan's new phone and address
 817-953-7155
 2151 Green Oaks Road, Apt. #4310
 Fort Worth, TX 76116

If you have changes in your contact information, please contact Steve Purdy at spurdy06@sbcglobal.net

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	3 8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	4  8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 8a Thistle Hill	5 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial TCMGA Meeting	6	7 8:30a Common NRH 8a Veterans Park-Wildscape 9am Compost Demo—Veterans Park Texas AgriLife Seminar “Sustainability Organic vs. Inorganic?”
8	9 8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	10 8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day TCMGA RCCG Class— Container Gardens	11 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work	12 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial	13 8:30a JPS Meditation Garden	14 8:30a Common NRH 9am Composting Demo—River Legacy 9am SW Crthse TCMGA RCCG Class— Glass Totems
15	16 8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	17 8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	18 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a FW Hulen Lbry 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9a Bob Jones Nature 8a Thistle Hill	19 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial	20	21 8:30a Common NRH TCMGA RCCG Class— Fall Vegetable Gardening
22	23 8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	24 8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day TCMGA RCCG Class— Native & Adapted Ornamental Grasses	25 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a SW Crthse 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work	26 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial	26 8:30a JPS Meditation Garden	27 8:30a Common NRH
28	29 8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	30 8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	31 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a SW Crthse 9a Teen Challenge 9am SW Crthse 9a CG Herb Work			

Thursday, June 28, 2012 10 am - 12 noon
Cactus Gardens
 Class Fee: \$5 RC, Bldg 2300, room 2351
 Class limit: 30

Saturday, June 30, 2012 9 am - 11 am
Butterfly Puddler Make & Take
 Class Fee: \$20 TCMGA Garden
 Class limit: 20

Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10 am - 12 noon
Container Gardens, Chair Garden & Fairy Garden Demo only
 Class Fee: \$5 RC, Bldg 2300, room 2351
 Class limit: 20

Saturday, July 14, 2012 10 am - 12 noon
Glass Totems Make & Take
 Class Fee: \$20 RC, Bldg 2300, room 2351
 Class limit: 20

Saturday, July 21, 2012 10 am - 12 noon
Fall Vegetable Gardening
 Class Fee: \$5 RC, Bldg 2300, Gym
 Class limit: 60

Tuesday, July 24, 2012 10 am - 12 noon
Native & Adapted Ornamental Grasses
 Class Fee: \$5 RC, Bldg 2300, room 2351
 Class limit: 30

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 10 am - 12 noon
Living Wreath w/ Clay Pots & Succulents
 Class Fee: \$45 RC, Bldg 2300, Gym
 Class limit: 20

Saturday, September 15, 2012 10 am - 12 noon
Perennials
 Class Fee: \$5 RC, Bldg. 2300, gym & garden
 Class limit: 20
 Saturday, September 22, 2012 10 am - 12 noon
Water Features in the Garden
 Class Fee: \$15 TCMGA Garden
 Class limit: 20

Saturday, October 13, 2012 9 am - 3 pm
TCMGA Regional Conference**
 Class Fee: Undetermined
 Class limit: Undetermined

Saturday, November 10, 2012 10 am - 12 noon
Bugs - The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly
 Class Fee: \$ 5 RC, Bldg 2300, Classroom
 Class limit: 40

To register for a class contact Billie Hammack at blhammack@ag.tamu.edu
 To schedule a class contact Nancy Curl nl_curl@yahoo.com

**2 hours CEU credit for
Master Gardeners**

2012 Home Horticulture Seminars Texas AgriLife Extension Service

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ROOM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
July 7, 2012	10:00 am-12 Noon	Lonestar A&B	"Sustainability Organic vs. Inorganic?"
August 4, 2012	1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Lonestar A&B	"Fall Vegetable Garden", The Best Season in Texas
September 1, 2012	10:00 am-12 Noon	Lonestar A&B	"Native & Adapted Plants"
November 3, 2012	1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Lonestar A&B	"Landscape Design"
December 1, 2012	10:00 am-12 Noon	Lonestar A&B	"Individual Consultations"

Please call 817-884-1296 to RSVP for the class.

Classes will be held in the Conference Rooms of the Tarrant County Plaza Building and are open to the public.

Cost of each class is \$15.

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all public without regard to race, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any of our meetings are encouraged to contact our office at 817.884.1945 for assistance.

Project Code & Name	Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
301 BRIT Activities	Call Chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
302 BG Perennial Garden	Wed. 8:00 am	Cindy Woelke	817-366-4436
302 BG Children's Garden		Dolores Geisel	817-446-4536
302 BG Trial Garden	Thurs. 8:30-11:30am	Susan Miller semiller@sbcglobal.net	817-261-1420
303 Community and Demo Garden Chair	Bill Vandever, bvandever@sbcglobal.net		817-244-1580
Project Leads			
Community Garden, Tuesdays			
Barn Beds	Charlotte Berck, caberck@dot11net.		817-426-6417
Compost & Rainwater Harvesting	Ron & Sue Ellen Schlitzer, s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net		817-294-1329
Community Vegetable Beds	Pat Higgins, ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net		817-946-6278
Demonstration and Enabling Beds	Frank Durda, fdurda@hotmail.com		817-292-2270
Education	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Education – TCU	Lance Jepson ljepson@aol.com & Pat Higgins	817-557-6122	817-946-6278
Enabling Garden	Frank Durda, fdurda@hotmail.com		817-292-2270
Greenhouse/Propagation	Claire Alford, caagardner@aol.com		817-481-8861
Herb Garden, Tuesdays	Rita Hottel, rnhottel@att.net		817-295-2883
Hospitality (Cook-outs)	Beverly Beazley, babeazley@tx.rr.com		817-483-7080
Orchard	Renee Beckum, jrbeckum@sbcglobal.net		817-790-8575
Perennial Garden	Ginger Bason & Joann Hahn, gbason@hotmail.com, joannhahn@att.net	817-838-7321	817-923-9250
Plant Sales	Carol Lally & Linda Winn lallyca@sbcglobal.net, mwinnclan@aol.com	817-656-2736	817-581-4486
Potting Shed	Pat Lovejoy, palovejoy@att.net		817-447-7924
Rain Barrel Construction	Claudia Teague, cteague@flash.net		817-444-2247
Rose Garden, Tuesdays	Nan Garvin, garbre@hotmail.com		817-477-2867
304 Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 8:00 am	Sue Fair	817-266-2514
304 Union Gospel Mission	Mon. 9 am	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
304 Teen Challenge	Wed. 9 am	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
304 Common Ground NRH Community Garden	Wed. & Sat 8:30a-12n	Diane Spradling Sandra Totty Annette Lee	817-431-4666 817-281-7877 214-803-2219
304 Six Stones/City of Bedford Community Garden			
304 The Samaritan House	Tues. 8am-11a	John Pinkerton	682-433-2529
304 JPS Meditation Garden	2nd & 4th Fri. 8:30am	Bernice Ramsbottom	817-485-6631
203 Grapevine Botanic Garden Docents	Call Chairman	Rachel Clark, Co-Chair Paula Wilbanks, Co-Chair	817-488-003 817-481-4398
Environmental Projects:			
305 Composting Demo	1st Sat., Veterans Pk, Arlington 2 nd Sat., River Legacy, Arlington	LaVonne Nowlin Charlie Shiner	817-581-1850 817-488-6123
305 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 9 am	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-5182
305 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat., last Wed. 9 am	Gailon Hardin	817-475-0923
305 Southlake Liberty Garden	Call Chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
305 Veterans Park-Wildscape	2nd Thurs., 8-11 am Wed. 8am-11am	Molly Hollar	817-319-6924
305 Bob Jones Nature Center	1st Sat., 8am-11am 3rd, Wednesday, 9 am	Nancy Searl	817-542-3190
School Gardens:			
306 Alice Carlson OLE	Mon. & Thurs. 8:30 am	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
306 Fitzgerald OLE	Mon 9:00 am	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
306 Heritage School OLE	Mon. 8-10am	Pam Braak & Harold Annis	817-488-5665 817-481-6242



Important Websites to Know!



Our local TCMGA website:	http://www.tarrantmg.org/
State MG Website and TMG news:	http://www.texasmastergardeners.com
State Newsletter:	http://www.tmganewsletter.org
Our RC Demo Garden Website:	http://www.localharvest.org/member/M27123
Native Plant Society of Texas	http://npsot.org
Aggie Horticulture:	http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu
Earthkind:	http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind
Texas Superstars:	http://texassuperstar.com
Fort Worth Botanic Garden:	http://fwbg.org
Wildscape:	http://thewildscape.org
Botanical Research Institute of Texas:	http://www.brit.org

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Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any of our meetings are encouraged to contact our office at 817.884.1945 for assistance.