

Prepare now for spring vegetable gardening season

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



PHOTO BY Dr. William M. Johnson

Experienced gardeners know in just a few weeks the spring gardening season will be under way. The Galveston County Master Gardeners offer a seminar on spring vegetable gardening on Saturday, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

It's past mid-January. We have had some dull, cloudy days with respectably chilly temperatures.

Even so, the past few days have been graced with bright sunshine and temperatures have been quite pleasant. Such weather tends to fuel gardening fever even though it's still winter.

The Galveston County Masters have planned two upcoming educational programs that will be of interest to local residents desiring to hone their gardening skills while their gardening activities have slowed down a bit during the

winter season.

Spring Vegetable Gardening

Experienced gardeners know that in just a few weeks the spring gardening season will be underway. Now is the time to make preparations for a successful home vegetable season. We try to get plants in the ground as quickly as possible after the last expected frost.

Experienced gardeners also know that as summer approaches, some heat sensitive plants such as tomatoes and beans will stop blooming and/or setting blossoms as day-

time temperatures consistently enter the lower ninety degrees range. An important key to successful spring gardening is getting maximum production before the summer heat sets in.

So you're aware of the health benefits of eating fresh vegetables, you have the space for a small garden, but just don't know where to start? Look no further. Plan now to attend a program on "Successful Spring Vegetable Gardening" to be held at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located at 4102-b Main Street (Carbide Park) in La Marque.



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Dr. William Johnson is a horticulturist with the Galveston County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Visit his website at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>.

News column printed in the Galveston Daily News, The Post, and other Galveston County Newspapers.



This program will be conducted on Saturday, January 26, from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is requested (e-mail GALV3@wt.net; phone 281-534-3413, ext. 1-2).

Luke Stripling is a Galveston County Master Gardener and will serve as the program speaker. He has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience on home vegetable gardening. He will provide information on a variety of topics including soil preparation, types of vegetables that do well here, variety selection, fertilization, and pest control.

Learn from a gardening expert, start with the right information now, dedicate some sweat equity and you will enjoy the experience of eating fresh, crisp vegetables you grew yourself! Whether you're an experienced or a novice gardener, be sure to make a notation on your gardening calendar to attend this program to learn what you need to know to put fresh, tasty vegetables on your dinner table this spring.

Anyone Can Grow Roses

Roses play an intimate role in our daily lives even though we don't often think about the subject. Major events in our lives are usually celebrated with roses playing a consecrated role from birth, graduation, citizenship, and marriage, as well as anniversary occasions.

Our love affair with roses spans the generation of time—roses definitely rank as a favorite landscape plant for area gardeners. A beautiful rose from your very own garden is always a marvel to behold.

Experienced and novice rose growers purchase thousands of bushes annually in anticipation of the beauty which they can produce. In Texas, where everything is bigger and better, rose growing is no exception.

Roses come in a wide variety of types. For most folks, when you say "rose," the

modern hybrid tea rose, with its pointed bud, brilliant color and picture-perfect form, generally comes to mind. You can duplicate those beautiful pictures of roses you see in mail order catalogs if you select varieties suitable to our growing conditions, plant them correctly and provide proper care thereafter.

Our national floral symbol deserves as prominent a place in the yard as it has ever had since colonial times as pioneers crossed the country and brought their favorite roses with them.

Be sure to pencil in a notation on your "Weekend Things-To-Do-List" to reserve a seat for our program on "Anyone Can Grow Roses." Pass the word also to all your rose-loving friends and neighbors that Saturday, January 26, is the date set for this presentation to be provided by John Jons, a Galveston County Master Gardener and expert rose grower.

The presentation will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located at 4102 -b Main Street (Carbide Park) in La Marque. Hybrid tea rose varieties for the Texas Upper Gulf Coast, bed preparation, planting and culture, and insect and disease management will be discussed.

Pre-registration is requested to ensure availability of handouts (e-mail GALV3@wt.net; phone 281-534-3413, ext. 1-2).

Given the right care, roses will reward you with color, fragrance and beauty from early spring to late fall.

