

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



PHOTO BY William M. Johnson



June 3, 2015



The annual summer pruning of peach trees after the harvest season is a critical management practice for producing easily harvested and heavy crops of quality peaches. Hands-on demonstrations of summer pruning of peach trees will be conducted on Thursday, June 3, at the Master Gardener Demonstration Orchard in Carbide Park.

Rainfall has certainly been plentiful this spring and daytime temperatures can be expected to climb into the nineties with the arrival of June.

Even though our summers tend to be on the warm side, productive home gardeners still can gather colorful bouquets from the landscape and fresh vegetables from the garden. The productive landscape and garden will call for early summer care, and important and timely

gardening chores.

June's gardening calendar includes the following:

PEACH TREE PRUNING:

Two major challenges of successful home peach production is 1.) thinning the overabundance of fruits at the right time and in the right amount, and 2.) the seemingly unmerciful act of summer pruning of branches that look so healthy.

The annual summer pruning of peach trees is

a critical management practice for producing easily harvested, heavy crops of high quality peaches. If left unpruned, peach trees will become too tall and tangled to comfortably and safely harvest, and yields will start to decline.

Summer pruning should be carried out soon after all fruits have been harvested. That time is fast approaching for most varieties. As crucial as this practice is, home

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

peach growers are often unaware of the importance of summer pruning and how to perform this task.

Whether you are a novice or wish to enhance your current skills on summer pruning of peach trees, take steps now to reserve a space to participate in a hands-on training on pruning peach trees. The training will be conducted at the Master Gardener Demonstration Orchard located in Carbide Park (4102 Main, La Marque) on Thursday, June 3.

The first training session will be held at 9:00 a.m. and a second session will be held at 10:30 a.m. Because this is a hands-on training, participation is limited to 22 individuals on a first come, first accepted basis.

VEGETABLE HARVEST: Harvest vegetables frequently to insure continual production. When not harvested on a frequent enough basis, many vegetables will reduce production of flowers and channel their energy into seed production in the maturing fruit already on plants.

BLACKBERRIES: Once blackberry plants have completed their current crop, they should be fertilized. The "stalks" (called fruticanes) that produced this year's crop will soon die back and should be removed to reduced disease problems. A new set of green "stalks" (called primicanes) should be present and these will produce next year's

crop of blackberries.

SUMMER ANNUALS: It is not too late to plant colorful summer annuals during June and early summer, especially if transplants are used. Plant dependable summer annuals such as vinca, impatiens, salvia, and portulaca.

To simulate continuous production of flowers by annuals, remove the faded blooms often, which will induce more branching and more blooms. Seasonal flowering plants will also profit from an occasional feeding with a light application of a balanced fertilizer.

At a Glance

TITLE: The Fabulous Fragrant Frangipani (Plumeria)

DATE: Saturday, June 6, 2015

TIME: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

SPEAKER: Galveston County Master Gardener Loretta Osteen will present a PowerPoint program on how to grow Plumeria, use the flowers, and propagate by seeds, cuttings, and grafting.

TITLE: The Culture and Care of Palms in Galveston County

DATE: Saturday, June 6, 2015

TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

SPEAKER: Galveston County Master Gardener O. J. Miller has over 15 years of experience with growing palms in our area. His presentation will include an introduction to palms, an overview of palms commonly found at nurseries in our area, palm planting methods, palm fertilization, freeze preparation and

general care. The program will include a discussion on palms recommended for Galveston County and the surrounding area.

LOCATION: All programs conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located in Carbide Park (4102-B Main Street) in La Marque. Pre-registration required by e-mail (GALV3@wt.net) or phone (281-534-3413, ext. 12).

