

September's garden calendar packed with programs

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



PHOTO BY Dr. William M. Johnson

Plumeria is well-known for its striking, intensely fragrant and spiral-shaped blooms, which appear at branch tips from around April through November. When night temperature starts to drop below 40 F, plumeria should be protected. The AgriLife Extension Office will sponsor a plumeria seminar Sept. 22.

The last days of August delivered several rounds of rather decent rain and surprisingly pleasant temperatures.

It's more than ironic when daytime temperatures below 100-degree days sound pleasant. However, with all things being relative, the agony of last summer's scorching temperatures is still a lingering memory.

One good thing about our Texas Gulf Coast summers is that we get to anticipate and better appreciate the upcoming fall season, which commences Sept. 22 at 9:49 a.m., to be exact. With the arrival of September, I know that in a few weeks I can look forward to going outside and being

pleasantly reinvigorated from the pleasant weather brought on by a genuine cool front.

The mere anticipation of cooler days is all that it takes for the ardent gardener to want to till the soil, remove what the summer heat has burned and plan for a newness of season and spirit.

September's gardening calendar contains a variety of educational programs for those of you who still have rational optimism that fall is approaching. All programs will be conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located in Carbide Park at 4102-B Main Street (FM 519) in La Marque.

Square Foot Gardening Seminar: Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. No room in your yard to grow tomatoes or cucumbers? Is your vegetable garden taking up too much space? Then try a different approach. Master Gardener John Jons will conduct the seminar. Limited enrollment and preregistration required at galv3(at)wt.net or 281-534-3413, Ext. 1-2.

Square Foot Gardening has been around for a long time and is a tried-and-true method for intensive gardening in a small area.

"This popular award-winning program teaches you a proven method on how to successfully grow vegetables, flowers or herbs in a 4-foot by 4-foot area," Jons said. "It's an ideal way of gardening for novice and experienced gardeners who have a limited amount of space and/or time."

Kitchen Gardening Seminar: Sept. 15 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. As daytime temperatures hopefully moderate, this is the time to make plans for a fall kitchen garden. Preregistration is required at galv3(at)wt.net or 281-534-3413, Ext. 1-2.

Mary Demeny, a Galveston County Master Gardener, will discuss vegetable gardening in your own backyard. Gardening on a smaller scale and making use of vegetables interplanted in your flower beds and in pots will be emphasized. Demeny has grown kitchen gardens for many



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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>.

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years, and she has the information you need to garden successfully in our area. Vegetables for discussion include onions, carrots, lettuce, peppers, okra, beets, broccoli, cabbage, kohlrabi, kale, leeks and more.

The Fabulous Fragrant Frangipani (aka Plumeria) Seminar: Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., presented by Galveston County Master Gardener Loretta Osteen. The program will include information on the history of plumeria, tips for growing and caring for plumeria in Galveston County. Also included will be information about different flower shapes, methods of propagation and fragrance and flower colors of plumeria varieties grown in our area.

When the night temperature starts to dip below 40 F, plumeria should be moved to a location where they will not be subjected to temperatures less than 35 F for the duration of the winter. Options for cold protection will be discussed. There will also be a demonstration on how to make the popular plumeria lei, Hawaii's favorite and fragrant flower icon. Preregistration is required at [galv3\(at\)wt.net](mailto:galv3(at)wt.net) or 281-534-3413, Ext. 1-2.

Fall T-Bud Propagation of Citrus & Deciduous Fruit Trees Training: Sept. 22 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. T-budding is most frequently used to multiply a variety that cannot be produced from seed. This hands-on training will focus primarily on T-budding citrus trees, although the same procedure can also be used to propagate a number of woody plants, including peaches, nectarines, plums, apples, grapes, roses and others.

Master Gardener Herman Auer will provide a hands-on training on propagation by T-budding. There is no fee, but enrollment is limited to 16 participants and pre-registration is required at [galvV3\(at\)wt.net](mailto:galvV3(at)wt.net) or 281-534-3413, Ext. 1-2. T-budding is considered one of the easiest

and fastest methods of plant propagation. With a little practice, the right conditions and compatible plants, the percentage of successful unions can be high. Even for the beginner, the percentage of successful unions is usually greater than with other forms of grafting.

Fall Plant Sale Preview: Heidi Sheesley of TreeSearch Farms will give a Power-Point presentation Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sheesley will highlight plants that will be available Oct. 6 at the Annual Ornamental & Perennial Sale. Preregistration is not needed.

