

Fall Plant Sale Offers Something Old, Something New

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



PHOTO BY Tom Fountain

Master Gardeners Luke Stripling and Wes Ruzek harvesting a bumper crop of blueberries in May at the Master Gardener Demonstration & Research Garden located in Carbide Park. The 2015 Fall Plant Sale will offer blueberries, citrus, avocados, fall vegetables and many other gardening items.



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I am impressed with the diversity of gardening items that the Galveston County Master Gardeners will be offering at the 2015 Fall Plant Sale which is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Carbide Park located at 4102 Main Street in La Marque.

On the morning of the sale from 8:00 - 8:55 a.m. in the Wayne Johnson Community Center in Carbide Park, Master Gardener John Jons will provide a preview presentation of plants and other items to be offered.

Master Gardeners have added some new venues to the

fall plant sale but perennials continue to be a major focus. Perennial plants can be used to create interest in any landscape. Perennial plants cut down on how much time you spend maintaining your landscape and they also improve the appearance and curb appeal of your home. Are you interested in attracting hummingbirds to your garden? You are sure to get those hummers' into your garden by planting a few of their favorite nectar plants. Throughout the sale yard you will find many plants to attract hummingbirds

(and butterflies) to your gardens, including the following:

- White Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii* 'Compact White'). A gorgeous, tough buddleia that withstands our Gulf Coast heat and humidity. Its silvery foliage provides contrast in the garden. Prolific, fragrant white panicles cover the plant spring through fall. Sun to part sun. Compact 3-4 foot mounding growth. Keep deadheaded to encourage more blooms.
- Lemon Sorbet Shrimp Plant (*Justicia* 'Lemon Sorbet'). This plant produces 4-6 inch shrimp-shaped



spikes of overlapping pastel lemon-yellow bracts with white tubular flowers on a 3-foot mound of soft, apple-green leaves. This tough attractive plant is an extremely long bloomer, responds well to pruning, and is root hardy in our Gulf Coast area. Grows in sun or light shade. Attracts hummingbirds.

- Dancing Flames Salvia (Salvia sp. 'Dancing Flames'). This plant really lives up to the name — it dependably produces a riot of color. Bright, golden variegated leaves are topped with spikes of brilliant tomato-red flowers in the fall. Excellent for borders and along walkways, and in mixed containers with purples, yellows and oranges. Grows in sun, but appreciates afternoon shade. Attracts both hummingbirds and butterflies.

- Climbing Pink Barleria (Barleria repens 'Climbing Pink'). Climbing Pink is a climbing vine that blooms summer and fall. Bright green leaves with nice texture. Bright pink flowers. Grows in sun or light shade. Root hardy in our Gulf Coast area.

Many butterfly enthusiasts also go the extra mile and provide host plants for their caterpillars. Monarch butterfly lovers will find the Mexican butterfly weed (Asclepias curassivica) at the sale. Mexican butterfly weed is a root-hardy perennial that produces clusters of bright orange flowers from spring to fall. Responds well to pruning. Mexican butterfly weed is a main larva food for the monarch butterfly.

This year's offering is a mix of "Texas Tough" perennials, shrubs, and trees. Perhaps you have decided to add edibles to the landscape.

Two varieties of blackberry, three varieties of blueberries, six varieties of avocado (six varieties) and many, many varieties and types of citrus will be available to add to your edible landscape. Come early for the best selection. And for the first time a good selection of flowering bulbs and herbs will be available. As you will see, there will be something for everyone.

Be sure to visit the "Grown By & Made By Master Gardeners" booth. I am sure you will be impressed with the range of gardening items offered. A Master Gardener who is a skilled wood worker constructed three mason bee hotels that would make an attractive accent to any landscape and also provide nesting sites for many types of mason bees and other native pollinators.

Another Master Gardener designed and tested several prototypes of a garden hand tiller/soil aerator. You will need to see and handle this garden tool to fully appreciate its ergonomic design and usefulness it has to offer. Gardeners appreciate the sound of wind chimes and a Master Gardener will offer some of her custom-made bottle wind chimes.

Another Master Gardener grows papayas from seeds and donated fifteen 2-gallon containers of his homegrown 'Terry's Best' papaya. I

consider papaya to be a "two-in-one" plant in home landscapes — this plant provides a distinctive tropical accent to landscapes to please the mind in addition to providing edible fruits to please the tummy.

Visit our Master Gardener website (<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html>) to view the lists of available plants and other gardening items to be offered at the 2015 Fall Plant Sale as well other helpful information. As is our custom, our friendly and knowledgeable Master Gardener volunteers will be on hand to assist you. Several 4-H youth will also be on hand to assist customers with checking out and loading their purchases. This endeavor is truly a volunteer effort.

Proceeds from plant sales are used toward development and maintenance of the Extension Master Gardener Demonstration & Research Garden located in Carbide Park which is open to the public.



Mason bee hotels make an attractive accent to any landscape and also provide nesting sites for many types of mason bees and other native pollinators.

PHOTO BY Joe Copeland