



PHOTO CREDIT: Dr. William M. Johnson

There is always something to grow and something to harvest in our Gulf Coast gardens—even during the month of December. Whether you are an enthusiastic citrus grower or just interested in tasting an array of locally grown citrus fruit, plan to attend the Citrus Tasting & Seminar to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, at the County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park.

When you think of citrus, images of grapefruits, lemons, limes, and oranges are most likely to come to mind. It's unfortunate that the citrus you see in the supermarket represents a very small portion of the variety of citrus that can be grown locally.

I grew up in Virginia and my parents traditionally

ordered two boxes of citrus for consumption by the family over the Christmas Holiday season—there was one box of oranges and another box of grapefruits.

Fast forward to the present and my Christmas Holidays in Texas still have a citrus presence with two important ex-

ceptions: 1.) I now get to experience many more types of citrus and 2.) all my Holiday citrus are homegrown thanks to many of my friends who grow citrus and the two rather productive citrus plants in my backyard.

A greater diversity of citrus types can be grown here than is avail-



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able on the commercial market. Not surprisingly, home-grown citrus is of superior quality to super-market fruits.

Area gardeners grow a remarkably wide variety of citrus ranging from grapefruits to kumquats to lemons to oranges.

Many types of citrus are easier to grow than many "traditional" fruit trees such as peaches. Many residents grow citrus not only for the fruit but also for the ornamental value that trees provide to the landscape.

Now visualize one of several types of citrus trees that you can grow in your yard to produce home-grown fruit to give as a distinctive and personal gift to family, neighbors and other friends. Sound too good to be true? Are you interested in sample-tasting an array of locally grown citrus fruit? Are you interested in learning about the basics of growing your own citrus?

Whether you are an enthusiastic citrus grower or just interested in tasting an array of locally grown citrus fruit, plan to attend the 2017 Upper Gulf Coast Citrus Tasting & Seminar Program on Tuesday, December 5, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The program will be conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located in Carbide Park at 4102-B Main Street (FM 519) in La Marque.

Citrus grown by local gardeners will be available for taste-testing

starting at 6:30 p.m. At 7:15 p.m., Monte Nesbitt, Texas A&M Extension Specialist in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at College Station, will provide a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Growing Citrus on the Gulf Coast." The Citrus Tasting & Seminar program is free-of-charge but pre-registration is requested (phone 281-309-5065 or e-mail galvcountymgs@gmail.com) to ensure adequate availability of fruits and seminar handouts.

Upcoming Seminars

Turning Dirt into Soil: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Saturday, December 2. Galveston County Master Gardener Jim Gilliam will explain the difference between dirt and soil, soil structure and characteristics, pH, nutrients, sources and strategies for soil amendment, soil testing and cultural practices. He will emphasize how to improve your existing soil. Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park (4102-B Main St., La Marque). Pre-registration required (phone 281-309-5065 or e-mail galvcountymgs@gmail.com) to ensure adequate availability of seminar handouts.

Growing Tomato Transplants from Seed: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., Saturday, December 9. Galveston County Master Gardener Ira Gervais will provide a presentation seed variety selection and the care needed to have the to-

Growing Citrus in the Home Landscape

mato varieties of your choice ready to transplant to the garden in February for a bountiful crop of the tasty tomatoes. Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park (4102-B Main St., La Marque). Seating is limited and pre-registration required (phone 281-309-5065 or e-mail galvcountymgs@gmail.com) to ensure adequate availability of seminar handouts.

Journey of Two Frugal Master Gardeners . . . Plant Propagation for Beginners:

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Saturday, December 9. Propagating plants is an inexpensive and easy way to get new plants from many of the plants you already have. Galveston County Master Gardeners Nancy Langston-Noh and Brenda Slough will provide a presentation that will explore the varied types and techniques of plant propagation for you to discover which type(s) will best fit your gardening needs. Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park (4102-B Main St., La Marque). Seating is limited and pre-registration required (phone 281-309-5065 or e-mail galvcountymgs@gmail.com) to ensure adequate availability of seminar handouts.

