

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



December 31, 2014



PHOTO BY Herman Auer

Master Gardeners have scheduled several seminars in January to educate gardeners on growing fruit trees and vegetables. Pictured above is Dr. David Cohen harvesting blueberries grown in his home landscape. Dr. Cohen will provide a seminar on Growing Blueberries on Saturday, January 31, at the Galveston County Extension Office.

The New Year will start in a few hours! One circumstance that remains predictable is that over the next several months that the days will be getting slightly longer until the first day of summer (June 21 or the summer solstice). It would appear that is where predictabilities would end for the weather seems not to know that the winter season is at hand. Even my single (and prized) Tropic Snow

peach tree growing in the back yard is confused—it has already produced two flowers. This is a sure sign that winter conditions have been exceptionally mild. This year's mild winter allows gardeners to continue harvesting winter vegetables and enjoying cool-season flowers, and most gardeners find this a more relaxed time of year. Review the following checklist on activi-

ties for the month of January.

- To start the New Year out, Master Gardeners have planned several educational programs that will be of benefit to area gardeners (see shaded inset). Texas Master Gardeners are volunteers who have completed an intensive training on a variety of horticultural topics and who provide valuable assistance to the County

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.



Extension Office.

- Many gardeners have inquired about the status of our annual Fruit Tree Sale. It will be conducted on Saturday, February 7, at Carbide Park's Wayne Johnson Community Center, located at 4102 Main Street in La Marque. The sale is from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Additional information will be provided in later columns.

- Continue to select and plant ornamental trees and shrubs to fill landscape needs. Always plan ahead before planting. Remember that like little puppies, plants grow up. In the case of some trees, they can get large so be prudent about what you plant below electrical and telephone lines. The tree—and the homeowner—will ultimately lose in such standoffs.

- Rainfall over the past several weeks has been rather good and a welcome relief from last year's record drought conditions. Be sure to monitor the soil moisture levels of newly transplanted (less than two years) trees and shrubs to be sure they are not suffering from lack of moisture.

- Apply dormant oil sprays to control scale and other hard-to-manage insect pests on landscape trees and shrubs. Read and follow all directions provided by the manufacturer.

- Last but not least, don't forget to plant those bulbs that you put in your refrigerator to provide for a chill treatment. They won't flower in the fridge!

Upcoming Programs

All programs conducted at 4102-B Main Street (Carbide Park) in

La Marque. No fee but pre-registration required (phone 281-534-3413, ext. 1-2; e-mail GALV3@wt.net; or visit website at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>).

Grafting Your Own Fruit

Trees: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 6. Presented by Master Gardener Herman Auer. Class size limited to 32 persons.

Growing Avocado & Papaya:

9:00 - 11:30 a.m., Saturday, January 10. Presented by Jerry Hurlbert who is the Coordinator of Texas Rare Fruit Growers Association and has 35 years of experience growing avocados.

Growing Peaches in Galveston

County: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Saturday, January 10. Presented by Master Gardener Herman Auer.

Growing Citrus in Your Own

Backyard: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 17. Presented by Master Gardener Chris Anatas.

Gardening by the Square Foot:

6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 20. Presented by Master Gardener John Jons.

Successful Spring Vegetable

Gardening: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., Saturday, January 24. Presented by Master Gardener Luke Strippling.

The Real Dirt on Garden Soil:

1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Saturday, January 24. Master Gardener

Bob McPherson will share his firsthand experiences and successes on turning tough gumbo clays into a manageable, more "gardener friendly" soil.

Anyone Can Grow Roses:

6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 27. Presented by Master Gardener and Rosarian John Jons.

Grow Great Tomatoes:

9:00 - 11:30 a.m., Saturday, January 31. Presented by Master Gardener Ira Gervais.

Growing Blueberries:

1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Saturday, January 31. Presented by Dr. David Cohen, an accomplished home grower of blueberries by avocation and a practicing physician by profession.

