



### Introduction

Welcome, and thanks for reading the fall edition of the Gillespie County Horticulture newsletter. The office has gotten many calls lately about turfgrass that is yellowing and dying, with symptoms of an iron deficiency. When I've looked at this grass, I've usually found signs of take-all root rot. If you've never heard of this disease, I advise you to read the article on page 3 to find out more.

Our Gillespie County Pecan Show will occur in late November. Included on page 5 is more information on how to enter.

Do you know who the "Unknown Queen of Vegetables" is? The answer might surprise you, depending on how you feel about the particular vegetable. Check out the article on page 4.

I hope you enjoy this quarter's newsletter. If there is any topics that you would like to see, or if you have plant questions of any kind, you are welcome to email these to me at [elizabeth.mcmahon@agnet.tamu.edu](mailto:elizabeth.mcmahon@agnet.tamu.edu) or call us at the extension office at 830-997-3452.

### Preview

Detailed Announcements	Pg. 2
Take-all Root Rot	Pg. 3
Queen of Vegetables	Pg. 4
Pecan Show	Pg. 5
Strange Tales of Horticulture	Pg. 6
Program Announcements	Pg. 7
Garden Calendar	Pg. 11
Name that Plant	Pg. 12

## Imagine Your Future Orchard! Attend the 6th Annual Texas Fruit Conference

Ever look at the peach orchards around Fredericksburg and think, “I want to do that”!. Or want to grow your own fruit and know exactly what it’s been through to get from the tree to your plate? Extension has come to your rescue! Please join us for the Annual Texas Fruit Conference at the New Braunfels Conference Center on October 2nd and 3rd.

This year the program will be centered on three components: basic training for new growers, a CEU program for growers with pesticide licenses (6 Continuing Education Hours) and a discussion of the future of fruit production in Texas. One meal and admission into the Fruit Tasting is included with registration. Onsite registration is \$85 dollars.

For an agenda , please go to <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2363> or call 979-845-2604 for more information. Special discount hotel rates may still be available at the Fairfield Inn & Suites (call 830-626-3133) or the Courtyard Marriott River Village (call 830-626-4700).

### Office Closures

The Gillespie County Extension Office will be closed on November 10th, in observance of Veteran’s Day and on November 23-24th for Thanksgiving.

### Tree Sale

The Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting their annual native tree sale once more. Orders need to be placed by October 27th, 2017 with pick-up on November 8-9th, from 9 am - 12 pm at the USDA Service center in **KERRVILLE**. Please see the end of this newsletter for the order form. Payment is due when you pick up the trees.

### Local Horticulture Info on the Go!

Would you rather learn by listening, instead of reading? Check out my radio shorts on KNAF 910 in the morning around 7:10 am during the Farm and Ranch News. Or check them out on the internet, where you can download them and listen to them at your convenience on your phone, computer or MP3 player. Go to <https://soundcloud.com/txhillgarden> , pick a radio program to listen to, click “More” and then click “Download” to download.

*If there's something strange, and your grass don't look good, what might it be called?*

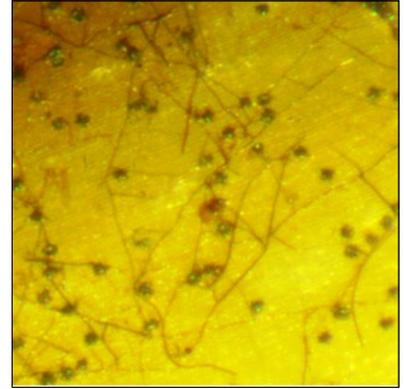
## Take-all Root Rot!



Potential take all root rot damage.



Grass gradually dying around tree.



Take-all root rot under a microscope.

**Affects:** St. Augustine grass is the most susceptible, though bermudagrass and zoysia grass can be affected too.

### Symptoms:

- Appears spring-fall, or as dead patches in a yard that never greened up.
- Patchy die off, yellowish coloration, iron deficiency and short roots that allow the grass to be easily pulled up.
- Damage is similar to chinchbugs, grubworms, gray leaf spot, too much shade or a real iron deficiency. The grass may have these problems and take-all root rot as well.
- When looked at under a microscope, the stolons have on them tiny black fungal hyphal strands with puzzle piece shaped dots called hyphopodia.

### Solutions:

- Do not scalp your lawn. Mow so that you remove only 1/3 inch of growth.
- Use a slow release fertilizer. Avoid high phosphorous lawn fertilizers.
- Do not over or under water your lawn.
- To treat lawns, apply one 3.8 cubic foot bale of peat moss per 1,000 square feet, which is about a 1/3 inch thick layer. Use the back of a rake to gently smooth it. It must be moist to work, so apply half an inch of water to activate it. The peat moss acidifies the conditions around the stolons, which the disease doesn't like.
- Apply a fungicide. Easily obtainable ones include myclobutanil and propiconazole. Professional lawn products include azoxystrobin (Heritage) or triadimefon (Bayleton). Fungicides may not be very effective.
- Plant something else. Use a more tolerant grass species such as bermudagrass or landscape your lawn instead of having turf.

*You can plant your broccoli and cabbage in a fall vegetable garden. Maybe plant some cauliflower if you are feeling brave or kale if you want something different. But there may be one vegetable that is sorely missing....*

# Behold, the Kohlrabi. Unknown Queen of all Vegetables!

The word kohlrabi is German in origin, meaning “cabbage turnip”. It is not a hybrid of these plants; instead it is only a cousin of cabbage. Part of the name is attributed to it’s appearance. As it grows, the stem swells, appearing turnip shaped. This above-ground bulb is what is normally consumed, though the foliage is edible as well.

The taste of kohlrabi is slightly sweet, with a faint sulfur undertone, similar to cabbage, but not as strong. It has an appealing crisp texture, similar to jicama or raw turnip. Kohlrabi can be prepared in a variety of ways. It can be eaten raw (with or without salad dressing), or roasted. More unusual ideas include using it to make coleslaw, creating fritters from it, or using it in soups and stir-fries. Depending on how you cook it, kohlrabi is a low calorie source of fiber, potassium, iron, magnesium, vitamin B-6, and an excellent source of vitamin C.

Unfortunately not many people are aware that kohlrabi is the queen of all vegetables. To this effect, it is impossible to find in groceries stores, and rare at farmer’s markets. The easiest way for your garden to entertain this royalty is for you to grow it yourself.

The classic variety is “Early White Vienna”, though other good varieties include “Winner”, “Express Forcer”, “Grand Duke Hybrid”, “Kossack” and more. Sow in February to early March, and in September. Only sow half for your first sowing, then sow the rest of what you intend to plant. This is to make sure you aren’t overwhelmed by so much awesome kohlrabi, and have to share it. Harvest when the bulbs are bigger than a golf ball. If left to get larger, the flesh may become tougher. Certain varieties can get larger without having this issue.



Kohlrabi can be purple, the color of royalty.



Kohlrabi prepared to be eaten raw.

As anyone who has read history knows (or watched Game of Thrones), royal figures have enemies that plot against them and harass them. Enemies of kohlrabi include cabbage loopers and harlequin bugs. Cabbage loopers can be picked off and killed. Or use a bT or spinosad pesticide when they are small, carbaryl when they are larger. Harlequin bugs are best killed with cabaryl as well, while the bugs are small.

Though you may have never heard of kohlrabi before this article, I invite you to give it a try. Maybe you will discover for yourself why it is the Unknown Queen of all the Vegetables.

# 2017 Gillespie County Pecan Show

The Gillespie County Extension Office is pleased to announce the 2017 Gillespie County Pecan Show on November 30th, 2017. Entries are due on November 29th, 2017 at noon.

To enter, please bring to the Gillespie County Extension Office a brown paper bag of 40-42 pecans of the same variety that were grown by you. Seedlings, known hybrids and native pecans can be entered too, but will have their own categories respectively. Smallest pecan entries need to have at least a pound of pecan present.

What happens to your pecans when they arrive? Pecan show volunteers and extension agents will crack them. If entering, you are welcome to help us crack pecans on November 30th at 9am, though it is not necessary to do so.

Your pecans will be judged based on weight, kernel size and shape, damage/disease presence and color. Pecans are categorized according to variety, so don't worry, your "Mahan" pecans aren't going to be judged against someone else's "Pawnee".

If your entries contain more than one variety of pecan, they will be disqualified. You can enter only one entry per variety, except for natives, seedlings and hybrids. Pecans that have been altered in any way, including but not limited to sanding, cut, or polished will be disqualified. Pecans must be from the 2017 crop.

The champions from the natives, classic/new and commercial divisions will be awarded trophies. Finalists from the county show will move on to the Central Texas Regional Pecan show in early December. Finalists from this competition will move onto the state competition in June 2018.



Central Texas Regional Pecan Show



Your pecans could have a blue ribbon too at the 2017 Gillespie County Pecan Show!

# Strange Tales of Horticulture

## Leaves are falling! Is it just fall, or is my tree dying?

Unfortunately, because of the lack of rain in late August and September, this might not be natural leaf drop. Lack of rain can cause trees to defoliate and if it's near the fall, some trees may go dormant early without a showy display. But as the trees lose their leaves due to drought, you may wonder, why don't they look as pretty as they do in the fall?

The answer to this question lies in basic plant biology. Plant leaves have cell organs called chloroplasts. These chloroplasts contain a natural compound known as chlorophyll. Chlorophyll makes leaves green, and helps capture sunlight for plants to make into food. It isn't the only compound in the leaf. Other natural compounds are present, including carotenoid.

Food production in the leaves slows in the fall, and eventually the green chlorophyll fades away, thus revealing other compounds such as carotenoids. As the weather continues to cool, the tree leaves produce anthocyanins. Anthocyanin produces the most stunning color of all, that rich red. With drought the loss of production is more sudden, and so trees do not have as much time to develop color. The cooler temperatures are usually absent as well.

One of the most popular viewing places for fall color is Lost Maples State Natural Area. They post updates of fall foliage at the park here: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lost-maples/foliage-reports>

If you don't want to fight the crowds or would like to enjoy fall foliage at home, there are a few tree species you can plant in your yard that provide reasonably reliable fall foliage.

**Bigtooth Maple:** (*Acer grandidentatum*) The maple species found at Lost Maples State Natural Area. Reaches 15-45 feet in height. Not recommended for shallow soils.

**Crape Myrtle:** (*Lagerstroemia indica*) Can reach heights of 25-30 ft. provided you don't commit "crape murder" (topping your crape myrtles). Healthy, un-murdered crape myrtles can turn a brilliant red during special years in the fall.

**Spanish Red Oak:** (*Quercus buckleyi*) Pretty red foliage in fall. Can get as tall as 40 feet. Susceptible to oak wilt and bacterial leaf scorch. Avoid Shumard red oak.



Fall foliage on crape myrtle. Another reason not to commit crape murder.

**Chinese Pistache:** (*Pistacia chinensis*) Good for shallow and compacted soils. Grows 25-35 feet in height. It has a negative reputation due to invasive colonies that has popped up near urban areas. Plant only males to prevent invasive spread (example variety-"Keith Davey").

**Escarpment Black Cherry:** (*Prunus serotina var. eximia*) Colors yellow in fall, has flowers in spring. Leaves are poisonous to livestock. 20-50 ft in height.

**Flameleaf Sumac:** (*Rhus lanceolata*) Small native shrub growing up to 20 ft. in height. Can grow in shallow soil and on hilly slopes. Turns flame red in the fall. Has bright red berries that attract birds. May be difficult to find in nurseries.

See page 10 for more pictures of these trees.

# Upcoming Programs in Gillespie County

## Gillespie County Fall Range Tour

October 5th, 2017 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Gillespie County Fairgrounds, Fredericksburg.  
Topics include improved pasture and weed management. 2 CEUS, 1 general, 1 IPM will be given out. No RSVP necessary. Cost is \$10. Contact the Gillespie County Extension Office at 830-997-3452 for more information.

## Fredericksburg Native Plant Society Fall Plant Sale

October 14th 2017 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Native Plant Society Office, 320 W. San Antonio St, Fredericksburg  
Plants for sale Contact Chris at 830-998-8559 or email at [sligo.canine@gmail.com](mailto:sligo.canine@gmail.com) for more information.

## Master Gardener, Naturalist & Native Plant Society Plant Identification Walk

October 19th 2017 9:30 am - 12:00 pm. Enchanted Rock State Natural Area.  
Meet at restrooms near concession stand. Walk will cover common plants in the park. Bring water and wear good shoes. Contact Beth at 830-997-3452 for more information. Park entry is \$7.

## Gardening by the Month: Seed Saving

October 20th, 2017 12:10 - 1:00 pm. Gillespie County Extension Office, 95 Frederick Road, Fredericksburg.  
Come learn the basics of how to save seed. Class cost is \$10 dollars. Pre-registration not required but preferred. Contact Beth at 830-997-3452 for more information.

## Fredericksburg Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting

October 24th, 2017 6:30- 8:00 pm. Fellowship Hall, Presbyterian Memorial Church, 601 North Milam avenue, Fredericksburg.  
Presentation topic will be on climate history from Halls Cave by Steve Stoutamire, Geologist. Contact Chris at 830-998-8559 or email at [sligo.canine@gmail.com](mailto:sligo.canine@gmail.com) for more information.

## Texas Pomegranate Growers Association Annual Meeting

November 4th, 2017 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Gillespie County Extension Office, 95 Frederick road, Fredericksburg.  
Topics to be discussed include pomegranate harvest and other topics .

# Upcoming Programs in Gillespie County

## Gardening by the Month: Winter Squash

November 17th, 2017 12:10-1:00 pm. Gillespie County Extension Office, 95 Frederick rd., Fredericksburg.  
Learn about the various types of winter squash, how to grow them, and try samples of cooked squashes.  
Class cost is \$10.

## 5 Hour CEU Course

November 27th, 2017 8:15 am – 3:30 pm. Gillespie County Extension Office, 95 Frederick rd., Fredericksburg.  
Topics on weed control, earthkind landscaping, spraying pesticides around schools and more. Structural and pesticide applicator CEUS available. Meal provided. Cost is \$75. Contact Beth or Brad at 830-997-3452 for more information.

## Gillespie County Pecan Show

November 30th, 2017 Gillespie County Extension Office, 95 Frederick rd., Fredericksburg.  
Pecan show entries due November 29th by noon. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more info.

# Upcoming Programs Outside Gillespie County

## Riverside Nature Center Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival

October 7th, 2017 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Riverside Nature Center, Kerrville.  
Plant sale, free kids activities and exhibits and displays. Contact the Riverside Nature Center at (830) 257-4837 for more information.

## Invaders of Texas Citizen Scientist Program

October 16th, 2017 9:00 am—4:00 pm. Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 HWY 27E, Kerrville.  
Training on how to identify current and potential invasive species. Please bring a computer or smart phone. Class will have some components outdoors. Registration due by October 11th, register by email to hcmg2002@outlook.com. Free.

# Upcoming Programs Outside Gillespie County

## Llano River Pumpkin Float

October 28th, 2017 4:00 - 9:00 pm. Badu park near the dam, Llano.

Float pumpkins on the Llano river. Bring already carved pumpkin with light or candle, **no paint or glitter**. Must be on site by 6 pm. Carving demonstrations on site, as well as live music, vendors, cake-walk and activities for children. Contact Cheryl at 512-417-9274 for more info.

## Hill Country Master Gardeners Open Meeting

November 1st, 2017 2:00 - 3:00 pm. Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 HWY 27E, Kerrville.

Public welcome. Speaker will present on native grasses. Free.

## Master Gardener Intern Class Forum

November 3rd, 2017 10:00- 11:00 am. Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 HWY 27E, Kerrville.

Come learn about how to become a Master Gardener. Refreshments provided. Please contact the Hill Country Master Gardeners at 830-257-6568 for more information. Free.

## Glory Community Garden Fall Festival

November 4th, 2017 10:00 am—2:00 pm. Corner of Webster and Davis Streets, Kerrville.

Come join this local community garden for live music, community displays, homemade food, and fun games for kids & adults. Free.

# Upcoming State Wide Programs

## Menard Range and Pesticide Training

October 4th, 2017 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Murchison-Whitehead Complex on US HWY 190 W, Menard.

Lunch provided. Five CEUS (3 IPM, 1 drift and 1 laws and regs) offered. Topics deal with predation and brush control. \$15 per person, \$20 per couple. RSVP by October 2nd to 325-396-4708.

# Upcoming State Wide Programs

## A&M Turfgrass Field Day

October 11th, 7:45am-1:30 pm, College Station.

Information on turfgrass selection and management, irrigation, golf course management and demonstration. Concurrent programs and field tours. Park at 3240 F&B road. Preregister at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Turf>. Contact Alisa Hairston at 979-845-0884 or email at [ahairston1@tamu.edu](mailto:ahairston1@tamu.edu) for more information.

## Agricultural Leasing Workshop

October 19th, 2017 8:30 a.m.-1 :00 p.m. at the Tom Green 4-H Center, 3168 N. U.S. Highway 67, San Angelo.

Covers grazing, hunting, livestock leases. Lunched provided. RSVP one week before meeting by calling Kim at 806-677-5626. Free.

## Austin Fermentation Festival

October 22, 2017 10:00 am—4:30 pm. 10463 Sprinkle Road, Austin, TX .

Learned about making various fermented foods and beverages, including sauerkraut, kimchi, ciders, and more. Vendors available as well as live music. \$20 early registration until October 6th. Kids under 12 free. For more information, please see <http://texasfarmersmarket.org/austin-fermentation-festival/> .

## Texas Beekeepers Association Annual Convention

November 9th-11th , 2017. Frank Mayborn Event & Convention Center, Temple, TX.

Sessions on ag exemptions, mead, queen rearing, varroa sampling and more. For more information, see <http://texasbeekeepers.org/annual-convention-2017/>



Flameleaf Sumac.

*Picture by Sally and Andy Wasowki., Wildflower Center.*



Bigtooth Maple.

*Picture by Joeseeph Marcus, Wildflower Center.*



Spanish Red Oak.

*Picture by Page Lee, Wildflower Center.*



# Garden Calendar



*With tips taken from "Dr. Welch's Garden Tips" and Neil Sperry.*

## September

- If the weather has cooled, plant fall vegetables such as broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, beets, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, snap peas, radishes, spinach, swiss chard, strawberries, and turnips.
- Divide spring-flowering perennials such as irises, shasta daisies, cannas, day lilies, violets, liriopse, and ajuga.
- Plant wildflower seeds. Plant them into tilled soil, away from competition of turf grasses.

## October

- Planting time for: artichokes, beets, carrots, garlic, kale, leaf lettuce, radishes, spinach, and turnips.
- Purchase spring blooming bulbs. Plant daffodils, narcissus and jonquils after purchase, but chill tulips and hyacinth bulbs in peat moss until planting in mid/late December.
- Perennials, shrubs, and trees can be planted at this time.
- If desired, apply last application of fertilizer to lawns early this month. Use the same fertilizer, there is no need to spend money on a special winterizer.
- Keep Christmas cactus in a sunny spot where night temperatures can be kept below 65 °F. Buds will drop if you allow night temperatures to go above 70 °F. or if you allow the plant to become excessively dry. They should also be kept in total darkness from 5:00 pm until 8:00 am for about 30 days to initiate flower buds.
- Remove dead plants from garden to prevent insects and disease from having a spot to survive the winter.

## November

- First frost in our area is usually around the middle of November. Have coverings for vegetable garden and sensitive plants ahead of time so you aren't in a panic when the first frost is predicted.
- Place orders for seeds later this month or in early December. This allows you to order when the selection is best. Try a few new varieties in addition to your old favorites, and look for disease resistance if you've had particular problems in the past.
- Reduce the fertilization of indoor plants from late October to mid-March. An exception would be plants in an atrium or a well lighted window.

## Name that Plant!



What is the name of this plant? First person to respond with the correct answer will get their name featured in next quarter's newsletter.

## Last Quarter's Plant



*Answer was scrambled eggs, aka Corydalis aurea.*

*This newsletter is a publication comes out quarterly, with issues out on February/March (spring), June/July (summer), September/October (fall), November/December (winter). If you would like to stop receiving this newsletter, please contact us me at [elizabeth.mcmahon@agnet.tamu.edu](mailto:elizabeth.mcmahon@agnet.tamu.edu).*

*For other questions, comments, and concerns, please contact us at:*

*Gillespie County Extension office  
95 Frederick Road  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
830-997-3452*

*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Information compiled by Elizabeth McMahon, Gillespie County Horticulture Agent, except where indicated.*

# KERR COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## NATIVE TREE SALE

### PRE-ORDER FORM

Pick Up at USDA Service Center, 2104 Memorial Blvd, on November 8-9, 9 am – 12 pm

*Special Orders Due by: October 27, 2017*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Species:	Quantity		Price Each	Total Price
Burr Oak	_____	X	\$30	_____
Cedar Elm	_____	X	\$30	_____
Chinkapin Oak	_____	X	\$30	_____
Monterrey Oak	_____	X	\$30	_____
Blanco Crabapple	_____	X	\$30	_____
Eve's Necklace	_____	X	\$30	_____
Golden Ball Lead Tree	_____	X	\$30	_____
Mexican Plum	_____	X	\$30	_____
Desert Willow	_____	X	\$30	_____
Bigtooth Maple	_____	X	\$30	_____
Texas Redbud	_____	X	\$30	_____
Anacacho Orchid Tree	_____	X	\$30	_____
Escarpment Cherry	_____	X	\$30	_____
Madrone *1 gallon pot*	_____	X	\$30	_____

Other Species (not guaranteed, call for availability):

\_\_\_\_\_

Return form to:  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Kerrville Field Office**  
**2104 Memorial Blvd**  
**Kerrville, Texas 78028**

Or email it to : [Deanna.Pfeffer@tx.nacdnet.net](mailto:Deanna.Pfeffer@tx.nacdnet.net)

Order can also be called into 830-896-4911. Talk to Shannon or Deanna. Pay when you pick up the trees.

**TOTAL AMOUNT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PAID ON:** \_\_\_\_\_