

# Gillespie County



Horticulture Newsletter  
Fall 2019



## Introduction

Fall brings change, or at least it's supposed to. At the time of writing it still feels like summer outside.

With fall comes the fall slate of programs. Look inside this issue for information on the Texas Fruit Conference, the Gillespie County Pecan show, and a large list of upcoming programs. Believe it or not, September is a good month to plant strawberries. See this issue for more information.

Check out the @gillespiehort twitter account!

Once a week I will post pics of what is going on in Gillespie County horticulture and come winter, chill hours will be tweeted weekly. Chill hours will still be available on the website if you do not want to use Twitter.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the extension office at 830-997-3452 or email me at Elizabeth.mcmahon@agnet.tamu.edu

Thanks for reading!

## Preview

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Did you know that there is a twitter handle for up to date horticultural information in Gillespie County?

Check it out @gillespiehort or <https://twitter.com/gillespiehort>

# Fall Lawn Tips

## Fertilizing

- Fertilize two or more days before applying a pre-emergent.
- Use 1 lbs. actual nitrogen, unless your soil test indicated otherwise.
- Calculate how much fertilizer you will need to get the recommended rate by dividing your application rate by the percentage of fertilizer in the bag. So for a fertilizer that is 21-0-0, divide 1 by .21, which is 4.8 lbs of that fertilizer. This would be applied over 1,000 square feet.
- Use a slow release fertilizer on sandy soils to decrease nutrient waste/loss.
- Avoid “weed and feed” fertilizer use under trees. It can negatively effect trees.

## Diseases

- Rainy cool weather can trigger brown patch (large patch).
- Brown patch can cause either large dying patches or affect an entire lawn with random yellowing leaf blades.
- Leaf blades pull out easily and are rotten at bottom.
- Brown patch doesn't usually kill grass. If you get it year after year, reduce watering and treat with propiconazole fungicides such as Fertilome Systemic Fungicide 2 or BioAdvanced Fungus Control for Lawns or myclobutanil fungicides such as Monterrey Lawn Fungicide or Fertilome F Stop Fungicide.
- Take all root rot appears as yellow foliage with patchy dead spots. Turf does not come back. It looks like an iron deficiency.
- Treat with peat moss or compost in affected areas, or use azoxystrobin fungicides such as Heritage G or Scott's Disease EX.



*Brown patch in St. Augustine turf.*

## Pre-Emergents

- Apply a pre-emergent with isoxaben (Gallery), oryzalin or pendimethalin to prevent broadleaf weeds such as thistles or henbit.
- Apply a pre-emergent with benefin (High Yield Crabgrass Control or Andersons Crabgrass Preventer), oryzalin (Surflan or Oryzalin 4) or pendimethalin (Scotts Halts Crabgrass & Grassy Weed) to kill grassy annual weeds such as rescuegrass or annual bluegrass.
- Reapply in December or January if we have a rainy late fall/early winter.
- Avoid use if you like bluebonnets or other wildflowers in your yard.
- Pre-emergents do not kill already growing weeds or perennial weeds.



*Rescuegrass, a common cool season grassy weed.*



*Example of iron deficiency (left picture). Patchy die-off from take-all root rot (right picture).*

## Office Closures

We will be closed on 11/11/2019 and 11/28-29/2019

## Save Pecans for The Gillespie County Pecan Show

The Gillespie County Extension Office is pleased to announce the 2019 Gillespie County Pecan Show on November 22nd, 2019. Entries are due on November 20th, 2019 at noon. Commercial and home tree entries are both welcome.

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 nuts 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 22nd at 9 am, 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" until the championship round.

If your entries contain more than one variety of pecan, they will be disqualified. If you don't know what variety of pecan you have, you can enter them, and we will identify them for you. Just be certain you collect from only one tree. 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, cutting or polishing will be disqualified. Pecans must be from the 2019 crop.

The champions from the natives, classic/new and commercial divisions will be awarded plaques. Finalists from the county show will move on to the Central Texas Regional Pecan show in January. Finalists from this competition will move onto the state competition in June 2020.



*Entries are given codes. The 1200 series represent the variety "Pawnee".*



*The Gillespie County Show usually has a modest number of entries.*



*The Central Region Pecan Show can be quite large.*

## Plantastic Vegetable Gardening Seminar Returns February 7th, 2020

February 7th, 2020 will be the annual Plantastic Vegetable Gardening Seminar here in Fredericksburg. Listen to our special guest speaker, Dr. Joe Masabni, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Vegetable Specialist, speak about organic gardening, cover crops, and more. Additionally we will have break-out sessions on tomatoes, drip irrigation, herbs, basic gardening and other topics! Check out the winter edition of this newsletter for more information.

# Strawberries in the Texas Hill Country

Believe it or not, fall is the time to be planting strawberries here in Texas. Here are some quick tips to get your started.

Plant in September/October, overwinter for berries next year. This will help you get berries quicker than planting plants next year. Plants may need covering during hard freezes.

Choose only short day or day neutral varieties. Try 'Chandler', 'Douglas', 'Camarosa', 'Sequoia', 'Festival', 'Oso Grande', 'Radiance', 'Camino Real', 'Seascape', 'Albion', and 'San Andreas' and 'Benicia'.



Wantitall.co.za



Starkbros.com

Avoid pineberries or white strawberries. They have difficulties with our heat. Do not purchase blue or purple strawberries. These are scams.

Strawberries can self-pollinate, but insect pollination gets bigger berries. At maximum production, each plant should produce about 1 lb, but may be much less.

Berries will ripen about March-May, depending on your variety.



"X" marks the runner.

Strawberry plants may send off runners, but clip these and only allow one per plant.



Iron chlorosis on strawberry foliage.

Your plants may get iron chlorosis with high pH soil/water. Add iron chelate (available at local feedstores/agricultural stores and some hardware stores) to help the plant overcome it. Do not use iron sulfate products such as "Ironite". If this problem occurs once, it is likely to keep occurring, so you may be better off growing strawberries in a raised bed or large container instead.

# Bug Corner: White Mold on Oak Leaves

In late summer and fall an odd problem can occur on the leaves of post, blackjack and bur oak, as well as other trees. The foliage may be sticky, and on the underside of the leaf you may see a white and fluffy substance like mold.

It may look like a fungus, but it's actually a protective wax produced by a special type of aphid. Aphids are tiny sucking insects. Feeding of aphids on new foliage can cause twisting and curling of the leaves. The sticky honeydew they produce can turn black from a true mold that grows on it. Damage on mature foliage is usually no threat to the tree.



*Nope, that's not snow on the leaves.*



*Those green specks are aphids.*

If your oak leaves look “bronzed” instead, and you have no white wooly puffy stuff underneath the leaves, it could be due to lacebugs. Lacebugs, like aphids, are sucking insects. They are of similar size but have lacy wings, which gives them their name. Besides the stippling or bronzing of the leaf, they may leave behind tiny black dots on the underside of the foliage.

While the damage both these insects do to mature foliage is harmless, it can be ugly and annoying, especially if it occurs year after year. Because trees will be dropping their leaves soon, treatment at this time isn't recommended. Instead, next May use an imidacloprid soil drench, such as Fertilome Tree & Shrub Systemic Drench or BioAdvanced 12 Month Tree & Shrub Insect Control II around the base of the tree as directed. These insecticides take a while to move into the tree, but it's a better alternative than spraying. They also last a while after being applied, so applying in the spring will rid you of these pests later in the year. This insecticide should not be used on or near flowering plants.



*Washed out, bronzing of foliage.*



*Speckling on back of leaf.*



*Tiny lacebugs on back of leaf.*



*Ladybugs attracted to the foliage.*

# Strange Tales of Horticulture

## Trick or Treat Flowers

One can treat themselves to a blooming chrysanthemum in the spring, summer or fall. However, when you plant mums outside, they only bloom in the fall. What kind of trick is this? How does the horticulture industry trick mums and other plants to bloom out of season?

Because chrysanthemums are short day plants, growers can trick them into thinking the days are shorter by covering them with black cloths while the sun is still shining. After three to four weeks of this treatment the chrysanthemums will initiate flower buds and the growers will stop covering them. Triggering flowers in plants that need long days of sunlight is easier than plants that need short days. Growers simply use lights to extend the day. Adjusting daylength isn't the only trick a plant grower can use to initiate flowering. Temperature can be an important component too. Chrysanthemums will flower at 64 F at 8-12 hour daylengths, but only need 8-10 hour daylengths at 75 F. Bloom will be delayed if it is warmer than 85 F at night. Other plants need much cooler temps. Tulip, hyacinth and daffodil bulbs require 6-8 weeks at cold temperatures to trigger flowering.



Age can also determine when a plant is going to flower. Plants have a "juvenile" period when they are too young to develop flowers. This is typically more of an issue with seeds. Growers avoid this issue by using cuttings from mature plants. While these cuttings may be small and will put on fresh growth, they are still mature enough or close to maturity to avoid a waiting period for bloom.

If you have plants you want to trick to bloom, these techniques can be easily done at home, though putting a blanket over a plant will get old quickly. Otherwise you should just wait for your treat.



### Gillespie County Chill Hour Tracker

Gillespie County AgriLife Extension will be tracking chill hours at the office. Chill hours are a way to estimate if a fruit tree has received enough cold weather to set an adequate crop of fruit. Though many fruit crops need chill hours, this is a particular issue regarding peach trees. Chill hours will be reported using the under 45 F method and the 32-45 F method. Counting will start with the first frost. Please see <https://gillespie.agrilife.org/agriculture-2/horticulture/chill-hours/> for updates. New this year, updates will also be reported via twitter the handle Gillespiehort or <https://twitter.com/gillespiehort>.

## Upcoming Programs In Gillespie County

### Hill Country Butterflies NOT named Monarch

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam, Fredericksburg, TX. Presentation by Craig Hensley of Texas Parks and Wildlife. Free, open to the public. Program starts at 7:00 pm. Social time and light refreshments at 6:30 pm.

### Learn to Landscape with Native Hill Country Plants: Certification Program Level 3

September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Central TX CO-OP, 386 Friendship Lane, Fredericksburg, TX. This course will cover differences between native and non-native landscapes, how to install different types of plants into landscape and understanding maintenance requirements and techniques. From 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Lunch not included. Cost is \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members.

### Bennett Trust Women's Conference

September 30-October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Inn on Baron's Creek, 308 South Washington St., Fredericksburg, TX.

First day lectures on various ranch management topics, second day tour two ranches, practice shooting sports, grilling and wine tasting. Cost is \$100. Call 830-990-9202. Register online at <https://agrifileregister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2878>.

### Birding the Hills

October 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Gillespie County, TX.

Observe birds such as the black capped vireo or golden cheeked warbler at local ranches. Program will meet at the Gillespie County Extension Office between 6:30-7:30 am, return around 8-9:30 pm. Transportation, lunch and dinner meals included. Cost is \$850 for the entire program, day passes available at \$250 a day. Limited to 15 people. Good for beginner and intermediate birders. Register at: <https://valverdeextension.ticketleap.com/birding-the-hills/>

### Harper Library Bulb Program

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Harper Public Library, 23247 US-290, Harper, TX.

Topics include care of spring and fall bulbs, varieties, how to pre-chill bulbs, local heirlooms and more. Program is from 6:30-7:30. Free. Contact Beth at the Extension office at 830-997-3452 for more information.

### Deer Me! Native Plant Landscaping Despite the Deer

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Fredericksburg Middle School Library, 110 West Travis, Fredericksburg, TX.

Program will talk about creating and protecting native plant landscapes, deer food preferences, and ways to defend plants. Cost is \$20. From 6-7 pm. Presenter is Chris Anderson. Contact Rachel Malinak at 830-997-9552 for more information.

## Upcoming Programs In Gillespie County

### **Madrone Lore and More: How to Plant a Madrone Tree**

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam, Fredericksburg, TX.

Presentation by David Winningham. Program starts at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments and social time at 6:30 pm.

### **Harper Volunteer Fire Department & EMS Fish Fry**

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Harper VFD Station, 84 North Ranch Road 783, Harper, TX.

Come support the Harper Volunteer Fire and EMS in Harper Texas. Fried fish by donation, raffle tickets available at the fish fry and at extension office. Serving begins at 11:00 am, to-go line available.

### **HALO Night**

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Harper Community Park, 211 Pioneer Park Drive, Harper, TX.

Fundraiser for Harper 4-H & FFA livestock show projects. Includes 42 dominoes and poker tournament as well as casino games. Social hour starts at 5:30, games at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$20. Contact halo78631@gmail.com for more information.

### **Gillespie County Pecan Show**

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Gillespie County Extension Office, 95 Frederick Road, Fredericksburg, TX.

Pecans from the county will be judged for the best quality pecan. Pecans are due on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at noon. Free to enter.

### **Gillespie County Wild Game Dinner**

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Gillespie County Fairgrounds, 530 Fair Drive, Fredericksburg, TX.

Come eat meat, drink and support Gillespie County youth agricultural projects with the live auction, raffle, games and silent auction. Cost is \$25 which includes dinner, drinks and a door prize chance. For more information call 830-997-5508.

## Upcoming Programs in Nearby Counties

### **Kerr County Wild Game Dinner**

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Hwy 27, Kerrville, TX.

Fundraiser for Kerr County 4-H. Raffle and wild game food, as well as catfish. Doors open at 5 pm, serving starts at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$20. Contact the Kerr County Extension Office at 830-257-6568 for more information.

## Upcoming Programs in Nearby Counties

### Tree Care in the Texas Hill Country

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 TX-27, Kerrville, TX.

9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Public program covering a range of tree topics, include identification, best trees for our area, tree care and tree biology. Cost is \$35, with lunch and snacks included. Call 830-257-6568 for registration information.

## State Programs

### 2019 Texas A&M Turfgrass Field Day

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Lawn Research Facility, 3100 F&B Road, College Station, TX.

Come hear about current research activities in Texas A&M turfgrass program and related programs. Earn CEUS, visit trade show and enjoy lunch. Cost is \$55, lunch included. Starts at 8:30 am, goes until 1:00 pm.

## Texas Fruit Conference October 28th-29th in New Braunfels

Are you interested in growing fruit in Texas? Please join us for the Texas Fruit Conference & Tour, this October 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> at the New Braunfels Civic Convention Center.

Featured this year is guest speaker Dr. John Clark, the nationally renowned blackberry breeder from University of Arkansas. Blackberries may be the featured fruit Monday morning, but there will also be programs on citrus, peach production, crop shading and more.

Registration will begin at 8 am, and the conference is predicted to last until 3:45 pm, with the Taste of Texas Reception at 5:00 pm that Monday. The conference will begin again at 9:00 am on Tuesday, and end at 3:00 pm. Two lunches and entry into the "Taste of Texas" reception are included.

This year there will be an optional post-conference tour on Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup>. Stops include the Studebaker Peach Farms and The Texas A&M Viticulture and Fruit lab in Fredericksburg. The tour will meet at 9:00 am at the Studebaker Peach Farm, and end at the Viticulture and Fruit Lab at 2:00 pm.

For more information and to register online, please see <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2907> .Private pesticide applicator CEUS will be offered. The base price for the conference starts at \$100.



*Blackberries on a vine.*

## 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 Newsletter's Plant



*Answer from last quarter's newsletter was gomphrena, also known as Bachelor's Buttons. . Raynell Wilke was the first with the correct answer.*

*Picture policy-Unless specifically cited, all pictures were taken by the author of this newsletter. 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.*

*For other questions, comments, and concerns, please contact us at:  
Gillespie County Extension office  
95 Frederick Road  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
830-997-3452*

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