



As the Garden Grows



A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners

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Happy New Year!

Common Problems in Plant Care Inside or Outside the Greenhouse

Watering

Rule Number One: Don't water out of habit! Think about this. What do you do? My guess is that most of us do this a lot.

The best advice is to check the soil before you water. If the plants are wilted from drought, you are too late and the damage to the roots is already done. However, wilting can also be caused from overwatering or the air in the greenhouse is too cold. Other than keeping seedlings moist, one should water very little or not at all on cloudy, cool winter days. Water in the morning to prevent evening condensation on the leaves, which can promote disease problems. It is better to do less frequent, heavy watering than to do frequent light watering. Excess salts that occur naturally and from fertilizers accumulate and move with the water through the soil and are absorbed by the roots. The tips and margins of the leaves will burn and turn brown. If a heavy watering takes place, then the salts are leached out causing less damage to the roots that take in the salty water and distributes them to the stems and leaves.

Symptoms of Overwatering:

- Bluish-green mold growth on the soil surface.
- There is an increase in plant disease and seeds germinate poorly.
- The number of slugs feeding on leaves increases (plants that are on the ground in beds or pots).
- Slow growth because there is less air in the soil and roots need to breathe.
- Leaves may turn yellow or have numerous yellow splotches and eventually fall off the plant. If several leaves turn yellow at the same time, the likely cause is overwatering, cold drafts, or air pollution from a heater vent or unvented burner.
- Wilting of plants which causes most people to water more!!

Variables Affecting Watering:

- The more sunshine plants receive, the more water they will need.
- The more venting you do to cool the greenhouse, the more water the plants will need.

- Different plants have different watering requirements. Know your plant's water requirements. Seedlings and seeds need steady moisture and must never dry out but not dripping wet or drowning in mud.
- Clay soils and soils very high in organic matter (most commercial potting soils) require less water than do sandy or well-drained soils.

Water using your fingers and not your eyes. The moisture level of the plant can be felt by poking your finger in the soil surface an inch or so. If it is dry to touch then water the plant. Never let the pots completely dry out. Water the pots or containers until the water comes out the drainage hole. If the soil is dried out considerably, try the water-twice method. The first watering will immediately run out the bottom. However, it will cause the soil to expand and make contact with the sides of the pot, but the soil has not absorbed much water. After a few minutes, water again. This will soak the center of the soil mass and finally get the water to the roots where it is needed.

Hand watering (using a watering can or watering from a hose) is the most practical way for home greenhouse owners to water. Obtain a quality watering can with a nozzle that lets water out like a gentle rain. If using a hose, invest in a high quality nozzle for the end of the hose. You want to mist the plants or use a gentle spray nozzle so that you don't knock the plants down. Use an extension handle to reach those plants in the back. Consider a nozzle with a shut-off valve to prevent overwatering and allows better water placement. This comes in handy in the winter when the humidity is often high in the greenhouse because the moisture is not being vented out. It is a good idea to vent the greenhouse on those warm sunny days. In general, it is best to water the soil and keep the water off the leaves. An exception would be to wash off the leaves of debris and dust about once a month.

Consult the following article at www.aggie-hortculture.tamu.edu: Efficient Use of Water in the Garden and Landscape by Larry Stein, Extension Horticulturist and Doug Welsh, Extension Horticulturist (keyword: watering basics)

Leaf Burn: High concentration of soluble salts in the water

Soluble salts are minerals dissolved in water. Fertilizer dissolved in water becomes a soluble salt. When water evaporates from the soil, the minerals or salts stay behind. As the salts in the soil become more and more concentrated, it becomes more difficult for plants to take up water.



Edges of leaf turn brown



Salt deposits on surface or edge of pot (looks crusty white or yellow)

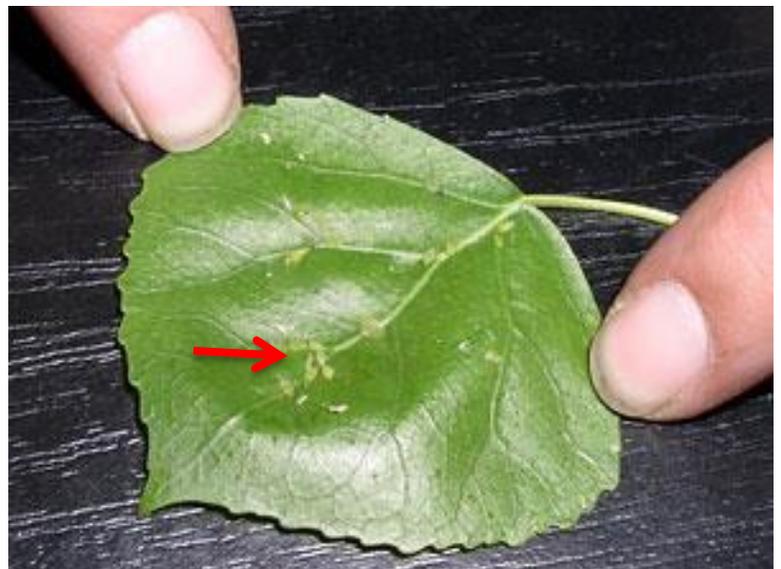
Solution: The best way to prevent soluble salt injury is to stop the salts from building up. When watering, allow some water to drain through the container and then empty the saucer (if the pot has one). Do not allow the pot to sit in water. Thoroughly drench pot with water to leech out salts; to leach plants, pour excess water on the soil, and let it drain completely. **Use rainwater!**

Most Common Insect Problems

Mealy Bugs: Ground mealy bugs are white and 1/8 to 3/16 inch long. Ground mealy bugs are covered with fine wax that can give the soil a bluish appearance. Foliage feeding mealy bugs are covered in woolly white fuzz with distinct filaments; they range in size up to an inch in length



Aphids are 1/10-inch, soft-bodied insects with piercing mouthparts that they use to suck the sap from the soft leaves, flowers and stems of plants. There are several species, all of which are destructive. Aphids are easy to see, because they congregate in large numbers and cause the wilting or distortion of the plants they attack. Body color ranges from yellow to tan to brown, orange, or black. Their presence can also be detected by the appearance of sooty mold — a black substance that grows in their droppings (honeydew).



Whiteflies- *Bemisia tabaci*

Whiteflies are very small (about 1 mm in length), winged insects that appear as white dots on the underneath surface of the leaf, easily recognized as they take flight when leaves are rustled. They reduce plant vigor by sap feeding and allow growth of “sooty” mold on the honeydew exuded during feeding. Infested leaves also take on a chlorotic look in severe cases.

Control:

Whitefly populations can build up to damaging levels in the absence of natural predators, and pesticide resistance is a common problem with this pest.



Whiteflies on underside of leaf

Spider Mite-*Tetranychus sp.*

Spider mites are barely visible with the naked eye, but their characteristic damage is easily recognized. Leaves subjected to mite feeding are described as “bronze” or “silver” because of the damage to the green tissue and a characteristic web is often present on leaves and young shoots. Populations of mites increase rapidly during hot weather.



*Get a white paper plate and hold it underneath the leaf. Tap the leaf and the mites fall to the plate. You should be able to see them moving around.

Consult the Vegetable IPM Web Site at www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu for recommended controls of these pests.

Leaf Cutters at Large!!!

(Submitted by Gail Johnson)

Leaf cutter ants (*Atta texana*) are a native ant that few gardeners seem to recognize—but they can be highly destructive and really hard to get rid of. They can strip a large shrub in a matter of hours and they will move from plant to plant, cutting the leaves into small pieces and carrying them away. Leaf cutters will attack a wide variety of plants in your yard including weeds, grasses, plum and peach trees, blackberry bushes and many other fruit, nut and ornamental plants. Many plants will not survive an all-out leaf cutter attack.

Surprisingly, leaf cutter ants don't eat leaves! In fact, they are one of many ants that farm. Leaf cutter ants carry the leaves they harvest from your yard into their underground nests where they use

the leaf pieces to grow fungus which is what they feed on. Leaf cutter ants feed exclusively on fungus—which makes them hard to control.

In all likelihood, the first inkling for the gardener that you have a problem is when you discover a plant that was perfectly healthy yesterday with no leaves today. In summer, when you are most likely to be out in your garden, leaf cutters are only active at night so it will be unusual for you to see them in action—but you can sure see what they have done. Leaf cutters often leave a trail of cleared foliage that will be easy for you to follow and many of them while build enormous nests with many “ant mounds” in it. A happy leaf cutter colony can number 2 million ants and may have as many as four or five queens. Leaf cutters prefer a sandy soil but they will colonize other soil types where it will be harder to notice the nest. Even if there is no trail, you will be able to see streams of ants, hurrying along the ground, carrying away your plant in chunks. If you do not see active ants around the plant under attack during the day, visit the victim that night to look for active ant activity.

Since leaf cutters only eat the fungus they farm, it’s difficult to treat them. About the only product currently labeled for leaf cutters is Amdro Ant Block. Many large nests will have multiple entries and a good infestation may have several colonies. Each entrance and each colony must be treated to control these ants—and if any survive, you will likely find them at work again in about 4 to 6 months. They are tough—so stay after them!



Hibiscus Plant stripped of leaves



Leaf Cutter Ants at work



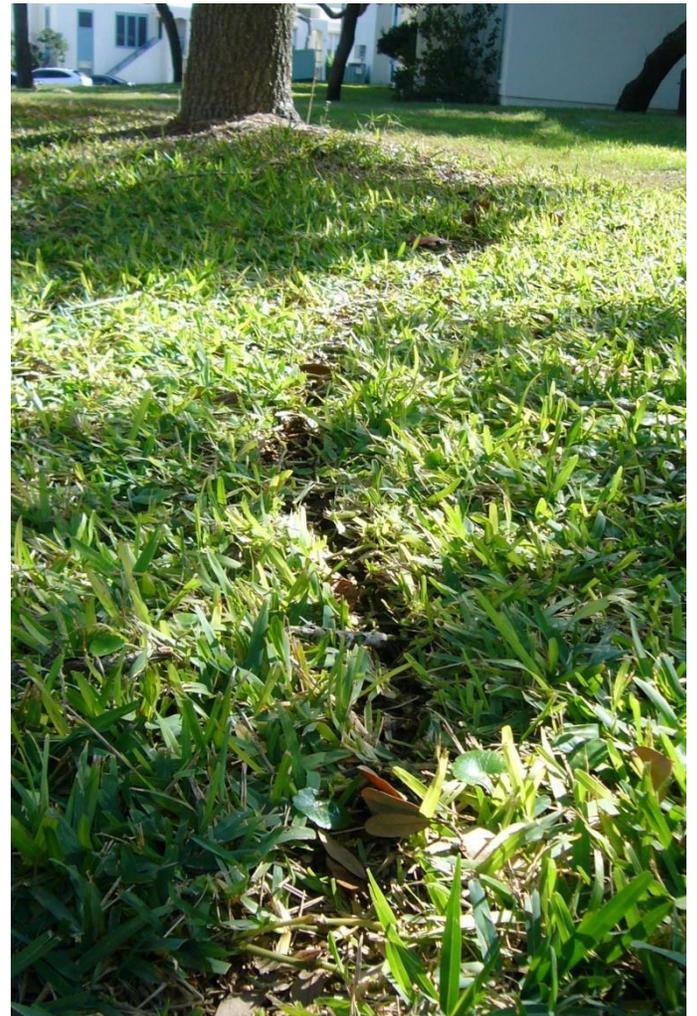
Leaf Cutters at work



Leaf Cutter Ants carry off plant material



Leaf cutters on the trail



Leaf Cutter trail through the grass



Entrance to Nest



Gardening Activities for January

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)

The big question this month: “What is still alive?” What can we expect from plants that experienced freeze damage in the recent very cold temperatures? You can remove the dead foliage, cut it back, and wait until spring to see if it is going to come back. Many perennials/adapted natives will survive these few days of cold temperatures. I prefer to wait a while to trim back the dead branches until mid to late February. As we found out in the greenhouse and on my patio, some of the plants just didn’t make it. It was just too cold for too long! Time to start over.

Fertilize cool-season flowers such as stock, snapdragons, pansies, violas, alyssum, ornamental cabbage, and kale. If the nurseries still have these plants, you can still plant them but protect them from a hard freeze. Also, look for ornamental Swiss chard, pinks and larkspurs to plant.

Fertilize your houseplants with a diluted high-nitrogen, water-soluble fertilizer monthly. Be on the lookout for spider mites, mealy bugs, and scale insects and treat when first seen. The same goes for plants in the greenhouse. These insects can quickly get out of hand.

Now is a good time to plant onions in South Texas.

Asparagus plants will benefit from fertilizing with all-nitrogen fertilizer late in the month to encourage vigorous new shoots.

Prepare your gardens for spring planting. Add some compost to the beds and mix it in with existing soil. Prepare new beds now.

Plan your vegetable garden and order your seeds now while selection is good. Start seeds indoors in mid to late winter for transplanting in the ground after the last frost date (around March 15 for our area).

The best time to prune woody ornamentals is mid to late winter since wound healing occurs fastest in the spring. The exception to winter pruning are those plants that bloom only once per year in the spring, such as spirea, flowering quince, forsythia, wisteria, and several varieties of climbing roses. Do not “top” crape myrtles as this does not improve their flowering and it ruins their natural form forever. Plant varieties of crape myrtle to fit the space you have available. Consult online resources and your local AgriLife Extension service for publications to guide you in pruning the various varieties of trees and shrubs. Roses should be pruned in mid-February.

Prune grapes to remove 80-85% of cane growth and maintain scaffold branches along supports. This keeps vine size manageable and ensures maximum fruit size and quality.

Bare-root fruit and nut trees are planted this month and next. The sooner the better to allow the roots to become established before the hot weather sets in. Fruit trees need lots of direct sun and excellent drainage, so choose your site carefully. Do your research to find out which varieties are best for our area.

Winter is the time to get all your equipment in top working condition. Clean and sharpen tools and oil those metal parts. Don't wait until spring to get the lawnmower in tip top shape. Do soil testing every 3-5 years to help guide you on fertilizer applications.

Take time to attend some of the ongoing gardening classes in the area. See "Events" in this newsletter.

Tree Trimming

(Submitted by Carolyn Parratt)

On December 13, 2016, Mark Kroeze, Urban Tree Forester from Bexar County, presented The Tree Class to GMG students. After a talk inside about the history of the U. S. Forest Service and tree pruning, everyone moved outside to put the lesson to practical use. Our Desert Willow was the first tree to be addressed.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Studying the tree (figure 1) for potential problems, Mark asked students to identify a common problem found in trees. Several students said "crossing branches" (figure 2) and noted the bark was rubbed off in some places. Mark talked about proper cutting of a limb even if it's a small branch (figure 3). The first and second cuts are called jump cuts (figure 4) which are designed to decrease the weight of the limb thus preventing tearing at the trunk.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Before making the second cut, the class examined the branch structure (figure 5) to determine where to make the proper cut closer to the main branch or trunk. The third cut is called the collar cut (figure 6) and is made so the tree will heal quickly using its anti-fungal chemicals to seal the wound.



Figure 5



Figure 6

After the collar cut is made (figure 7), Mark trimmed off several smaller dead branches (figure 8).



Figure 7



Figure 8

The class continued to evaluate the tree for problems. It is important to know the growth pattern of any bush or tree you are pruning. Taking "baby steps" when pruning can save a tree from a disastrous outcome. Mark demonstrated to the class how to cut up all the debris and place it around the base of the tree to add nutrient value (figure 9). Mark had the class study the tree one last time. "Is that your final answer," he asked the class? (figure 10). The Desert Willow got a much needed make over just in time for the Holidays.



Figure 9



Figure 10

The class continued identifying potential problems with trees across the street (figure 11). Crossing limbs, dead fall, co-dominant trunks, and root damage were just a few issues noted. Solutions were discussed.



Figure 11

Safety is always a priority. Having tools that are clean, sharp and correct for each job as well as proper cleanup was determined to be important in a successful outcome.

The class was very informative and the outdoor lab added to the overall educational value.



Are you and your lawnmower ready for spring?

It will be spring before you know it, although the past few weeks may have said otherwise! Did you have to mow the lawn recently? Did your lawnmower spit and sputter as you cranked it up? Are your mower blades dull?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to come to the Gonzales Master Gardener seminar to be held on **Wednesday, February 1, 2017** from noon until 1:00 pm. Speaker for the event will be Jacob Carter of Gonzales Outdoor Power. His topic will be "Preventive Maintenance and Proper Care of Lawn Equipment." Now is the time to get the lawn mower, weed eater, leaf blower and all those other lawn power tools ready for the spring season. Don't wait until the day comes to mow the lawn only to find out that the mower is not running properly. You are invited to come and learn how to properly maintain all that equipment to make your job easier.

Come enjoy a free lunch and learn how to get that equipment in tip-top shape. The event will be held at the GMG building called PACE (Plantatarium: A Center for Exploration) located at 623 N. Fair Street next to Gonzales Elementary School. Lunch will be served at noon and the seminar will follow. Everyone is welcome.

Two volunteers are needed to help Fran with the lunch preparations. Please contact Fran Saliger (830-672-2953).

Gonzales Master Gardeners Project Updates

Exploring Seeds with First Graders

(Submitted by Arline Schacherl)

The spring semester at East Avenue Primary is underway and that means it is time for first graders to begin exploring seeds with Master Gardener volunteers. Classroom session one will kick off on **January 12** when students will listen to Eric Carle's colorful story The Tiny Seed which focuses on the life cycle of a seed. During the twenty-minute session each team of first graders will also sign their names on the large wooden egg-shaped garden markers. Thanks, MG Carl, for cleaning and painting the "eggs" and later attaching them to the appropriate raised bed at the garden.

Before the volunteers leave each classroom, they will give the teacher a set of foam plant markers for each team of students to design before the volunteers return in two weeks. The assignment is to draw pictures of the plants that will grow from the carrot, lettuce, radish, and spinach seeds that will be planted in February at the Eggleston House Children's Garden.

During classroom session two on **January 26** the first graders will explore the inside of a seed. MG volunteers will open lima beans for the students to see the tiny plant inside that eventually becomes the sprout that will emerge through the soil's surface. Students are asked to predict whether the stem or the root will appear first. In order to confirm their predictions, MG volunteers will help each team prepare a lima bean jar experiment that will allow the students to observe the germination process. The teacher will be given a master copy of "Inside a Seed" booklet to use as the students explore the seeds' development. Volunteers will pick up the student-designed plant markers which will be used during session three—planting seeds.

In order for the garden beds to be ready for planting a work day at the Children's Garden is scheduled for **Saturday, January 21** beginning at 9:30 a.m. Weeds and any remaining marigolds or zinnias will need to be removed before adding some of the Looney Litter that MG Thomas and MG Carl have been using in their home gardens. MG Sandy L. will pick up the mixture on Friday. Please bring your shovels, hoes, rakes, gloves, and hats. There will be lots of soil to be turned and mixed with Looney Litter. If weather is inclement, we will reschedule for Saturday, January 28.

Kudos to MG volunteers who have signed up to help with the different sessions: Carolyn P., Robbie, Debra, Thomas, Nancy F., Fran, Dee, Shirley F., Jennifer, Janis, Pam, Sandy, Mike, and Arline. If you plan to help with the work day, please notify Arline (airinehart@gvtc.com) of your intent before January 19. I'll see you at the garden!



Second Grade Class Sessions

The Second Graders will be meeting with Dee Sengelmann's team on **Thursday, February 16** from 8 am until 2:30 pm. Second graders from East Avenue will meet at the PACE building for the third session for their study on the Parts of the Plant. Contact Dee for more information. As always, volunteers are needed.



Master Gardener Home Fruit Specialist Southern Texas Training Program

There is still time to register for the MG Home Fruit Specialist-Southern Texas Training Program. The **deadline has been extended to January 20, 2017**. Registration is limited to 35 people.

The Gonzales Master Gardeners are excited to host the first Master Gardener Home Fruit Specialist – Southern Texas Training Program on **February 9 & 10, 2017**. Since the climate in Texas is so diverse, this program will focus on fruit in the Southern half of the state (USDA Zone 8b and warmer). Chaired by Monte Nesbitt, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist, the course will offer an intensive training with a broad overview of fruit growing in Texas. The Gonzales Master Gardeners have made special arrangements for accommodations for participants traveling from out of town.

For complete information go to <http://gonzalesmastergardeners.org> or call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Gonzales County Office (830-672-8531) or MG Gail Johnson (830-49101996) or Jacky DuCote (713-824-2558).

SPRING PLANT SALE MARCH 25, 2017



The date is set for **March 25, 2017** on Texas Heroes Square in downtown Gonzales, Texas. We will be offering herbs, vegetable plants for the spring planting, annuals, perennials/native adapted plants, succulents, citrus trees and much more.

We had our first organizational meeting on November 29, 2016 to start planning for our sale. There is still a need for someone to head up the Marketing and Publicity and Food booth (providing food for MG's only) positions. Please consider helping in the areas needed. It takes everyone's participation to make the plant sale a success and I know you can be counted upon. Please contact Fran if you would be willing to take on the leadership of either of these subcommittees.

The recent freeze on January 7 & 8 has taken a toll on some of the plants in the GH but do not lose hope. Warmer days are ahead and there is still time to keep growing plants for the sale. Keep in touch with your grow team leader to know what needs to be done. This is a great time to learn how to grow vegetables, herbs, natives, perennials, annuals and succulents.

NOON LUNCH MEETING

Our next GMG noon lunch meeting will be held **February 2, 2017**. Nancy Swenson and Melissa Watson will be hosting the lunch. Bring something for a door prize.

We need volunteers to sign up for future lunches. See the signup sheet on the bulletin board at PACE.

Class #7 MG Training Classes

Contact Jacky DuCote for confirmation of speakers and dates.

- 1-17 **Vegetable Gardening**- David Rodriguez Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bexar County Agent
Chapter 6 Vegetable and Herb Gardening
 - 1-31 **Landscape Concepts and Design**-Wendy Lovejoy, Landscape Designer at Lovejoy Gardens
Chapter 7-Landscape Horticulturalist
 - 2-7 **Southern Gardens**-Bill Welch, Texas AgriLife Extension Horticulturalist
 - 2-21 **Plant Pathology**-Kim Cochran Texas AgriLife Extension Plant Pathologist
Chapter 4-Plant Health Problems
 - 3-7 **Turf Grass**-Dennis Hale, TAMU AgriLife Extension Wilson Co. CEA-AG, Retired
Chapter 8 – Lawn Care
 - 3-21 **Container Gardens**-
Earth-Kind/Texas Superstars-David DeMent, Botanist, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist
 - 4-4 **Rainwater Harvesting**-Brian Davis, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist
 - 4-18 **Field Trip to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**-Austin-Tour and native Plants in
Landscape Design
 - 5-2 **Ecosystems Management**-Baron Rector, TAMU AgriLife Extension Range Specialist
Chapter 3-Earth-Kind
 - 5-16 **Field Trip and Class Graduation**
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Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

La Marque: "Growing Great Tomatoes (Part 2 of 3)" with GC Master Gardener Ira Gervais presenting, 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., **January 14**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details:
<http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>.

La Marque: "Successful Spring Vegetable Gardening" with GC Master Gardener Herman Auer presenting, 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m., **January 14**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details <http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>.

Rosenberg: Join the Fort Bend Master Gardeners at their 2017 Fruit and Citrus Tree Sale on Saturday, **January 14**. The sale will be held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds - Barn H, Rosenberg. The sale will be open from 9:00 a.m. until noon or until sold out. For more information call 281-341-7068 or visit www.fbmq.org for a list of trees and directions to the sale.

San Antonio: David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Horticulturist will present a Fruit Tree Seminar, **January 14**, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at Milberger's Landscape Nursery, 3920 N Loop 1604 E, San Antonio. Whether you want to plant one fruit tree or an orchard, learn the basic steps of selecting appropriate tree species, how to properly plant them, how to train and manage these trees as well as harvesting and general overall maintenance. Email Angel TorresLuna at matorres@ag.tamu.edu for more information.

Houston: Open Garden Day, with Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2. 8:30-11 a.m., **January 16**, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston. Master Gardeners will also be available to answer your gardening questions. FREE. Plants for sale in the Greenhouse. Details: <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

La Marque: "Gardening by the Square Foot" with GC Master Gardener John Jons presenting, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., **January 17**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>.

Smithson Valley: The Lindheimer Chapter (Comal County) of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold their monthly meeting on **January 17** at the GVTC Auditorium, 36101 FM 3159, Smithson Valley. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Andrew McNeil-Marshall, LBJ Wildflower Center. Andrew will speak on "Texas Oak Collection, Hall of Texas Heroes and other exciting exhibits at the Center." The meeting is free and the public is welcome. For more information, call Martha Guethle, 830-438-5996.

LaGrange: The Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association is offering a training program with weekly classes running from **January 19** to graduation on April 25. Classes will be held on Thursday mornings at the Fayette County Agriculture Building in LaGrange. Topics for the class include plant growth and development, entomology, soils and plant fertility, landscape and fruit trees, plant pathology, vegetable gardening, lawn care and various aspects of environmental horticulture. Classes are taught by Texas AgriLife Extension specialists, agents, and local experts. The Texas Master Gardener program boasts the largest corps of Master Gardener volunteers in the nation. A love of gardening and search for knowledge is central to why Master Gardeners join the program. They remain Master Gardeners to enjoy the camaraderie and friendship of others who share their interests, to gain and share horticulture knowledge, and to give back to the community. For additional information, contact Susan Yancey at susan.yancey@gmail.com.

La Marque: "Fig Tree Pruning and Propagation" with Certified, GC Master Gardener Terry Cuclis presenting, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., **January 19**, at the Galveston County Master Gardeners' Research & Demonstration Garden in Carbide Park, 4102 Main St., La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>. Bring gloves.

Conroe: Montgomery County Master Gardeners will offer "Fruit & Nut Trees: Pruning to Planting!" at the Montgomery Co. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. **January 21.** Their annual Fruit and Nut Tree Sale will be January 28. Learn how to plan for your harvests of fresh fruit. \$5.00 per person (cash or check) is due at registration the morning of each class. The fee covers costs of materials, supplies, coffee and snacks. For more info visit <http://www.mcmga.com/> or 936-539-7824.

San Antonio: Dr. Larry Stein from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will present the Annual Fruit Tree Seminar, Sat., **January 21**, 9 a.m. to noon, at Fanick's Garden Center Inc., 1025 Holmgreen Rd, San Antonio. Stein will demonstrate how to properly select, plant, prune and maintain fruit and nut trees for maximum production. For more information, visit <http://www.fanicknursery.com/Upcoming%20Events.htm>.

Conroe: Montgomery County Master Gardeners are having their Fruit and Nut Tree Sale on Saturday, **January 28**, at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. The presentation starts at 8 a.m., the sale is from 9 a.m. until noon. Varieties sold will grow well in Montgomery County. Trees and plants include apples, blackberries, blueberries, citrus, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, and much more. Take your wagon! Visit www.mcmga.com or call 936539-7824 for more info.

Hempstead: Peckerwood Garden presents Peckerwood Garden Open Day: Saturday, **January 28**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 20559 FM 359 Rd. Hempstead. Visitors enjoy 1-hour guided tours of the garden led by knowledgeable docents. Guided tours are offered approximately every 30 minutes, leaving between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Purchase Tickets. \$10 admission and parking, Free for members. For more info, visit <http://www.peckerwoodgarden.org/explore/visit-peckerwoodgarden/> or info@peckerwoodgarden.org.

La Marque: "Kitchen Gardening" with GC Master Gardener Mary Demeny presenting, 1:00 p.m.3:00 p.m., **January 28**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>.

La Marque: "Anyone Can Grow Roses" with GC Master Gardener and American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian John Jons presenting, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., **January 31**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>

San Antonio: The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Bexar County is now taking applications for its Master Gardener Intern Training Class No. 61 in San Antonio. Master Gardener volunteer training is conducted by AgriLife Extension for adults interested in gardening, horticulture and related topics. Classes will be conducted from noon-4 p.m. each Wednesday from Feb. 22 to May 24, 2017 unless otherwise noted. Instruction will be given in Suite 208 of the AgriLife Extension offices, located in the Conroy Square office complex at 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, San Antonio.. Class size is limited to 30 participants and the deadline for submitting the application is **February 3**. A registration fee of \$260 is payable in full on the first day of class. If the applicant withdraws prior to March 1, a processing fee of \$100 will be administered. No refunds will be issued after that date. Applications are available online at <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/>. For more information, contact Torres at 210-631-0400.

San Antonio: Spring Youth Garden Educator Training will be presented Sat., **February 4**, 8 a.m.-

2:30 p.m., at Phil Hardberger Park, West Urban Ecology Center, 8400 NW Military Highway, San Antonio. This training is designed for teachers, educators, and volunteers in support of youth gardening in the classroom and community. If you are interested in starting a gardening program in your school/community or you are looking for ways to enhance your already existing youth garden, do not miss this educational opportunity! Breakout sessions will be conducted with different garden topics for you to choose from, and a starter garden kit will be distributed to youth gardens that are ready for planting. (Plant material is given per school/institution.) For only \$20, training and lunch is provided to all participants. Walk-ins will not be accepted, so please register early at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2191>. For additional information, email Ruby Zavala, Youth Gardens Coordinator, at Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu.

Tyler: Smith County Master Gardeners at the library, **February 10** at 11:30 a.m. "Rose Rustlers" with Greg Grant, Smith County horticulturalist and Texas Gardener contributing editor . Presentation with Q&A to follow. Tyler Public Library, 201 S. College, Tyler. Free and open to the public. For additional information, call 903-590-2980.

San Antonio: Rosarian Ed Bradley will present "Roses for 2017," Thursday, **February 16**, 1-3 p.m., at 3355 Cherry Ridge, San Antonio. Free. Bexar County Master Gardener (BCMG) Educational Seminars/General Meetings are held on the afternoon of the third Thursday every other month at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, Suite 208. Bradley will share his expertise his wealth of knowledge on growing roses in San Antonio. For more information email President@bexarmg.org, or call 210-699-0663.

New Braunfels: 6th Annual Spring Seminar 2017. Friday, February 17, 2017, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Texas Heirlooms and Superstars. Speakers include Greg Grant, Florence Oxley, David Rodriguez, and Cameron Campbell. Contact for more information and registration form: <http://txmg.org/comal/events/seminar>

Hitchcock: "Galveston County Master Gardeners 2017 Spring Plant Sale" with pre-sale seminar 8:00 a.m.-8:50 a.m., plant sale 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., **February 18**, at Jack Brooks Park Rodeo Arena, 10 Jack Brooks Rd and Hwy 6, Hitchcock (Galveston County Fairgrounds).

Pasadena: Harris County Master Gardener "Fruit Tree and Tomato" Sale will be held **February 18** at Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff RD., Pasadena. For more information, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

Smithson Valley: The Lindheimer Chapter (Comal County) of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold their monthly meeting on **February 21** at the GVTC Auditorium, 36101 FM 3159, Smithson Valley. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Kathryn Bryant, Management Chair, Lindheimer Chapter Plant Sale. Kathryn will speak on "Plant Sale Primer." Kathryn will review native plants of interest for the sale and propagation techniques. The meeting is free and the public is welcome. For more information, call Martha Guethle, 830-438-5996.

Check out www.txmg.org for events around the state

New Braunfels area: <http://txmg.org/comal/events>

Austin Area: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/>

San Antonio, Texas- <http://www.bexarcountymastergardeners.org>

DATES TO REMEMBER: (Check elsewhere in newsletter for details)

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings/classes are at
623 N. Fair Street (Plantatarium: A Center for Exploration-aka PACE)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY 8	9	10	11	12 1st grade Class Session 9 am	13	14
15	16	17 MG Class –Veg Gardening-David Rodriguez 8:30-12:30	18	19	20	21 Children’s Garden Cleanup Day 9:30 am
22	23	24	25	26 1st grade Class Session 9 am Board Mtg. NOON	27	28
29	30	31 MG ClassLandscape Design-Wendy Lovejoy 8:30- 12:30 Volunteer Hours Due	February 1 Lunch Seminar- “Preventive Maintenance of Lawn Equip.” noon til 1 pm	2 Noon MG mtg.	3	4
5	6	7 MG ClassSouthern Gardens-Dr. Bill Welch	8	9 Fruit Specialist Training 8am-5pm	10 Fruit Specialist Training 8am-5pm	11
12	13	14	15	16 2 nd Grade Class Session 8:00am - 2:30pm	17	18
19	20	21 MG Class Plant Pathology 8:30-12:30	22	23 1st grade Class Planting Session Noon-2pm Board Mtg. 9:30 am	24	25
26	27	28 Volunteer Hours Due	MARCH 1	2 Noon MG Mtg	3	4

PACE: 623 N. Fair Street-next to Gonzales Elementary School
Children's Garden: Corner of Moore and St. Louis St.-next to Eggleston House

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