



## Hale County

# Master Gardeners

March 2014

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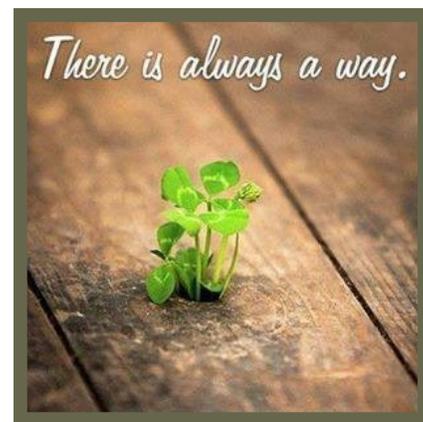
### Introducing the 2014 Master Gardener Class:

#### **Jonathan Lackey**

I was born and raised in Plainview, TX. I have always enjoyed being outdoors and working in the yard. I work at a tractor dealership in the parts department full time, and also have a lawn care business. I want to complete the Master Gardeners course to learn about landscaping and caring for lawns.

#### **Marcia Dixon**

I have been thinking about being a part of the Master Gardener program for about a year and have decided to do that this year. My parents always had a garden in Kansas and when I moved to Texas and married a farmer, it just seemed like having a garden and yard was the natural thing to do! Being outside doing about anything is my favorite thing to do, so why not have a yard and a garden to tend to. This past year we built some raised beds and also had regular in ground gardens. It was a fun experiment; we had plenty of green beans, tomatoes and zucchini to share and preserve. We hope to improve on our gardens this year with the knowledge we gain from being a part of the Master Gardener program.



#### **Don Dixon**

In today's society you need to keep up with the latest technology and techniques to make our natural resources stretch further. After farming for 20 years, I have more time in my new occupation to spend around the house and yard to produce more goods in a smaller area. After making raised beds last year, I found my knowledge short in the type of soils used in raised beds, picking proper varieties and insect control with edible produce. Many of these topics are covered in the Master Gardener program and groups me with other growers having the same issues. I look forward to gaining this knowledge.

### **Marilyn Kidd**

I am a 69 year old retired nurse, born in Plainview, Texas and graduate of PHS. I moved to Iowa in my mid 20's, lived there 20 years then moved to Arlington, Tx for 20 years....I recently moved back to Plainview and want to be involved in community activities, especially the beautification of Plainview. I have always been interested in flowers and gardening....and felt the Master Gardener program would be a great way to increase learning .

### **Donna Austin**

Why do I want to take the “Master Gardener Class?” I need to know more about planting in West Texas. I have agreed to donate the product to our local “food bank.”

### **Linda Milner Shipp**

I enjoy working in my yard and I am very grateful for the time I can spend there. Gardening brings me so much peace and satisfaction. It is also a great stress reliever.

I want to be a Master Gardener so I can be more knowledgeable and a better steward of my small piece of the world.

I am excited about all the classes the Master Gardener program offers and look forward to newfound gardening knowledge.

#### April Calendar:

April 10—Russ Wallace—Vegetables

April 17—High Plains Underground Water will be hosting a Rainwater Workshop at the Ollie Liner Center

April 19—Main Street Cleanup



If you would like to host a tour of your home or some other place please contact us at 806.291.5267.

We are asking members to please submit articles for the newsletter. Please send them to us at: [gary.cross@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:gary.cross@ag.tamu.edu)

## Master Gardener Agenda

2014

March 4	Orientation
March 11	Registration
March 13	Chemical Safety – Pat Porter
March 18	Mid-Plains Farmers Market
March 20	Botany
March 25	Xeriscape – Vickram Baliga
March 27	Water/Irrigation – Dana Porter
April 1	Mark Brown – Soils/Fertility
April 3	Lawn Care – Gary Cross
April 8	Plant Disease – Gary Cross
April 10	Vegetables – Russ Wallace
April 15	Ollas – Mark Hilliard
April 17	Out
April 22	Insects – Blayne Reed
April 24	Bees – Greg Cronholm
April 29	Tour
May 1	Birkenfeld Tour
May 6	Marlen Andrus Nursery
May 8	Perennials/Annuals Tour – Nell Rains
May 22	Woody Ornamentals



# Tycoon Tomato named Texas Superstar

Tycoon tomato has many characteristics that rival or even best the Celebrity tomato, the long-standing favorite of many commercial and home growers, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service horticulturist.

Tycoon tomato has superior resistance to diseases and nematodes, and it can produce very large fruit of superior quality. All these characteristics and more won it the Texas Superstar title, said David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension agent for horticulture in Bexar County and member of the Texas Superstar selection board.

For example, Tycoon is resistant to tomato yellow leaf curl virus, a disease that has become a major problem for many varieties in the past few years, Rodriguez said. It is also resistant to the fungi verticillium and fusarium, races one and two, and tomato spotted wilt virus, as well as nematodes.

Tycoon is an annual and determinant variety, which means that it is bushy rather than vining, and produces and ripens all its initial fruit crop at nearly the same time, most often within about a two-week period, he said.

Most home gardeners as well as commercial growers prefer determinant varieties because they're easier to manage and usually don't take up as much space. Also, the plants continue to produce fruit well into the summer, another plus for Texas gardeners.

As if all these favorable characteristics weren't enough to qualify Tycoon as a Texas Superstar, it's also capable of growing very large tomatoes, Rodriguez said. A common-size tomato for most reliable varieties, including Celebrity, is about 6 to 8 ounces.

"But we've been seeing and hearing reports from other growers as well that under optimum management, Tycoon can produce tomatoes 1 pound and larger and of very high quality," he said.

As for flavor, that's a subjective matter, Rodriguez noted, but Tycoon does have a very good sugar-to-acid ratio, which should please most people's taste.

All Texas Superstar plants undergo extensive tests throughout the state by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension horticulturists, said Dr. Brent Pemberton, AgriLife Research horticulturist and chair of the Texas Superstar executive board, Overton.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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***Texas  
Master Gardener*** <sup>SM</sup>



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