

VOL. 4 | APRIL 2020

# OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



## *From the Agent*

Howdy!

I just want to make you aware that while we might not be in the office, we are still working! We have forwarded the office phone to our cell phones and are still helping in anyway we can. It might not seem like the time to ask questions but it might just be the bit of normalcy that you need in your life right now.

Don't hesitate to reach out to us if there is anything we can help with, or point you in the right direction. I also apologize that this month's newsletter is a little lacking in material. Please don't forget to WASH YOUR HANDS!

Thank you,

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent

## OVERVIEW:

- From the Agent
- Horticulture Corner
- Good Reads
- Programming Update
  - Programming Efforts
  - Future Fridays
- Get Involved



# HORTICULTURE *CORNER*

## **In the Garden**

Stuck at home? Take time to do these things in April:

Plant those annuals, buy or start them from seed

Test your soil, then fertilize lawns accordingly

Don't prune those Azaleas till after blooming is done

Fertilize Camellias

Prune climbing roses

Fertilize roses, every 4 to 6 weeks until September

### **What should I plant this month?**

Transplant:

**Tomatoes**

**Peppers**

**Eggplant**

Seed:

**Bush Beans**

**Pole Beans**

**Cucumber**

**Cantaloupe**

**Sweet Potatoes**

**Watermelons**

Wait till later April:

**Okra**

**Black-Eyed Peas**

## **Native Texans**



Keeping with our low maintenance and heat tolerant theme for upcoming hot weather, our Native Texan for this month is Texas Sage. Texas Sage is a very low maintenance plant shrub, requiring little to no fertilization.

Texas Sage is a shrub that responds very well to pruning, making it able to be grown in smaller containers or larger areas of your yard. It provides blooms year round when in full sun and lightly watered. However, it does not respond well to constant moisture and should be planted in a dry area of your yard or on a small mound. The best part of Texas Sage is that it is pest and deer resistant!

GOOD  
read

## **Repurpose Coffee Grounds!**

Remember when grandma dumped her coffee grounds on the flower bed and garden? Well, she was onto something. Dr. Ben Wherley, a Texas A&M AgriLife Research Turfgrass Ecologist, has conducted research to capitalize on the value of this waste product. This study has attracted attention and a seed grant from the U.S. Golf Association Green Section, and the company GeoJava. The two-year topdressing fertilizer study tested seven different organic and synthetic fertilizers against coffee grounds. In the soil amendment research, the focus was to determine if spent coffee grounds could serve as an alternative amendment to peat moss.

Spent coffee grounds have about a 2.5-3% nitrogen content, and a carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of about 20 to 1, which seemingly could make them desirable for fertilizer application. The study compared fresh and composted grounds to other organic and synthetic fertilizers, along with peat moss, which is commonly used as a soil amendment in sand-based sports fields and golf course putting greens. The treatments studies included coarse spent coffee grounds, fine spent coffee grounds, peat moss, and straight sand as a control. Coarse and fine spent coffee grounds were compared primarily to understand the differences in nutrient and water retention and resulting benefits on turf growth.

Growth, color, density and nutrient retention over three months were as good, or better, in the soils amended with coffee grounds than those amended with peat moss. At the conclusion of each study treatments were subjected to a six-week dry period to determine how many days treatments could go before wilt was observed. Coffee ground-amended root zones did not show wilt until later in the dry period compared to other treatments, and they also showed much stronger recovery and vigor after wetting. Maybe grandma did know best?

# Upcoming Programs for Hardin County

All face-to-face programs have been canceled until May 4, 2020, unless extended by the county or Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

## **Programming Efforts**

AgriLife is trying to navigate what all this looks like for us, but please know we are doing our best. The entire agency is trying to work together in an effort to bring you CEUs and great online programs!



## **Future Fridays**

While I have created Future Fridays with our youth audience in mind it might be something yall will enjoy too. **Every Friday, for at least ten weeks**, we will be uploading a video onto our Facebook Page featuring young entrepreneurs in agriculture career interviews. We are looking for anyone involved in agriculture, especially non traditional agriculture. Our first video featured a close friend, Kendall Lambert, the co-owner of Elite Ag Solutions. Mr. Lambert's main job is brokering hay to large dairy and beef cattle producers.

**If you are a local producer and would be interested in doing a career interview please contact me at [katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu) or 409-246-5128.**

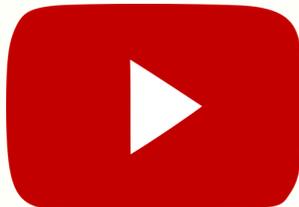
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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the Hardin County Extension Office at (409) 246-5128 two working days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

# *Get involved with Hardin County Extension*

Please consider joining the Hardin County Agriculture Committee to provide leadership and suggestions for upcoming programming. You don't have to make a large time commitment, with as few as four meetings per year, but we would love to hear your ideas and for you to share input on your county!

Please contact the office to update your email address, or if you know someone that would like to be added to this list, at (409) 246-5128, or by email [katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu). We also welcome suggestions for upcoming newsletters!

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<http://hardin.agrilife.org>

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