

VOL. 7 | JULY 2020

# OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



## OVERVIEW:

### *From the Agent*

Howdy!

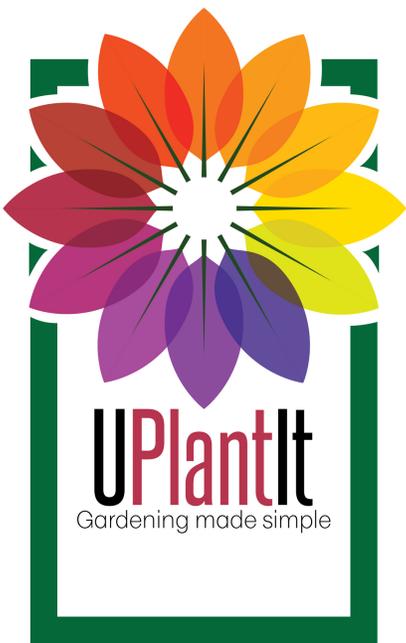
We are getting into the dog days of summer now and I think everyone is wishing they had a little vacation. Growing up in Southeast Texas I didn't even know until I was a teenage there were places with less humidity, and boy I bet they are nice this time of year!

I am thrilled that yall have kept our phones busy with questions or it would have been extremely boring around the office. Feel free to stop by if you need anything, we will even run it out to your car for you so you don't even have to get out!

Stay Safe,

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent

- From the Agent
- Horticulture Corner
- Good Read
- Programming Update
  - Virtual Programming Efforts
- Get Involved



# HORTICULTURE *CORNER*

## **In the Garden**

Deadhead annuals, perennials, and roses to encourage re-blooming

Scout garden daily for pests

Water beds deeply but infrequently

Pinch back fall blooming plants for increased blooms and density this fall

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

Plant Fall Transplants:

**Tomatoes**

**Eggplant**

**Peppers**

**Marigolds**

Seed for Fall :

**Pumpkin**

**Squash**

**Watermelon**

**Zinnias**

## **Native Texans**



Also known as Sky Flower because of the color of the blossoms, Cape Plumbago is a perennial that loves our hot Texas summers! Cape Plumbago will flower from May all the way to the first frost, or late fall for us.

The flowers put out by this plant are a pollinator favorite, attracting mostly butterflies. It loves our sandy loam soils of Southeast Texas and will thrive wherever you plant it, as long as it has good drainage. You can leave it to sprawl as a ground cover, or let it fall over a garden wall. Neither of those sound good? Prune it into a neat mound or train it to climb a trellis. Deer seem to dislike it too!



## **Matagorda County Farmers Enter the Hemp Market**

The 2018 Farm Bill legalized industrial hemp production for the first time in nearly 100 years, paving the way for Texas farmers to apply for licenses to grow the crop. While we think of hemp, and most picture illegal activities, it actually has many potential uses from fiber, grain, and the oil extraction. While it might sound like a win-win situation, this is a new market with a lot of risk and high entry costs. All of this has not stopped three Matagorda County farmers from taking the plunge.

"We've researched and studied this for over a year now, and finally you just get to the point where you just have to get out there and try it," Richard Beyer said. Beyer and fellow farmers Troy Owens and Gary Rooth Jr. applied for their hemp growing license and permit the day the Texas Department of Agriculture opened applications. They were all approved in March and began planting their first crop in early May.

Even with all the research the trio has done, there is still no sure way to know how the seed will grow in the heavy clay soils of the the Texas Gulf Coast, and they had quite the time even getting the seed planted. Hemp seed is very fine and brittle so augers and other equipment can easily crack the seed, so everything had to be carefully planted with a grain drill.

While they are having some successful germination's, they are finding the seedlings have trouble breaking through the soil. "The stuff that's up and growing is still in the early stages. We lost more than we'd like, but we're going to replant and start over."

The farmers are intending to grow the hemp for grain production, since there is no need for specialized equipment, and they already own the equipment they need. They have even already secured a buyer for the hemp grain, but are hoping they can also find someone who wants to purchase the fiber, making it a dual-purpose crop. "We've gotten to where there's a zero margin, or sometimes less than zero margin on everything else we farm. We're hoping hemp is a viable rotation for the future," Owens said.

Hemp fiber is used in textiles, rope, paper, bioplastics, insulation, and a slew of other building uses. There are even researchers looking into uses of hemp in livestock feeding.

The opportunity to try something new and increase profits was simply too big to pass up, according to Owens. "We understand it's going to have challenges, and there's a lot that we don't know. We realize that, but we feel like, because it's a new crop and there's so many opportunities, it was worth venturing into industrial hemp."

# Upcoming Programs for *Nardin County*

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

The entire agency has been working together in an effort to bring you CEUs and great online programs! I have included just a few that might be of interest to you, but there are so many more coming up on [agrilifeextension.tamu.edu](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu)

There are also many different programs on [agrilifelearn.org](http://agrilifelearn.org)



TDA has allowed AgriLife to create a completely online Texas Private Pesticide Applicator Training. This training is \$75 on the AgriLife Learn Portal [agrilifelearn.tamu.edu](http://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu)



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

# GARDENING IN THE GULF COAST

Join our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture agents & specialists online as they discuss gardening in the Gulf Coast Region of Texas.

## July 2020 Schedule

- July 1 at 10:00am - Home Citrus Growing
  - by Ginger Easton-Smith, AgriLife Extension Ag and Natural Resources Agent in Aransas County
- July 8 at 10am - Young Tree Care
  - by Boone Holladay, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Fort Bend County
- July 15 at 10am - Cacti & Succulent Varieties
  - by Kevin Gibbs, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Nueces County
- July 22 at 10am - Fabulous Figs for the Gulf
  - by Stephen Brueggerhoff, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazoria County
- July 29 at 10am - EarthKind Pest, Disease & Weed Control
  - by Robert "Skip" Richter, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazos County

Online via Microsoft Teams  
[Register Here](#)

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EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE  
*Providing Solutions*

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# Ag in the Evening Program Series

Brought to you by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Offices of:  
Houston County, Gregg County, Tyler County

**July 7**

## Bermuda Stem Maggot & Fall Armyworms

Zoom Meeting

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuceyrrD0qGNSCB2wpmEdNOzVQsu8p4kXn>

**SPEAKER:**  
Dr. Vanessa Olson

**July 21**

## A Year on a Ranch: A Management Guide

Zoom Meeting

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjYude2tpzMpHdT82xiwN2LoN432tGXyd5SG>

**SPEAKER:**  
Dr. Jason Banta

**August 11**

## Bermudagrass Decline

Zoom Meeting

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjMudOyvpzgsGNKK3kuSeBX7AcpuQ8-HpvQ5>

**SPEAKER:**  
Dr. Vanessa Olson

**August 25**

## Chute Side Basics Virtual Demonstration

Zoom Meeting

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwvce6opjMuGNP3mq82tl7Le-DNfM2Inkt>

**SPEAKER:**  
Dr. Jason Banta

**All Programs  
Start at 6pm**

Click the  
links to  
register for  
each

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# McLennan County Wildlife

## Management Program

July 29<sup>th</sup> on Zoom meetings

Time- 8:30-12:30

[Click here to register](#) to

register in advance.

### Topics Include

#### Predator Damage Management

(Wildlife Damage Control, Feral Hog Management, & Vulture Control)

- *Dr. John Tomecek*

#### Wildlife 1-D-1 Exemptions

(1-D-1 Wildlife Requirements, TPWD plan Walk Through, & Landowner Practice Strategies)

- *Steven Smith*

#### Pond Stocking

(Pond Stocking Strategies, Fish Species, & Fish management)

- *Dr. Todd Sink*



# What's Bugging You?



Wednesday,  
August 5,  
2020

Via WebEx

3:00 pm to  
4:00 pm

**Free to participate**  
**\*must be registered\***

For more information,  
please contact  
Brandy Rader at  
281-342-3034 or  
brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu



Join Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist Janet Hurley virtually as she shares her knowledge about common pests with homeowners in Fort Bend and surrounding Counties. Learn which ants should be a concern, which spiders are beneficial, how to prevent mice, and how to handle biting and stinging insects such as wasps and mosquitos!

**REGISTER HERE**



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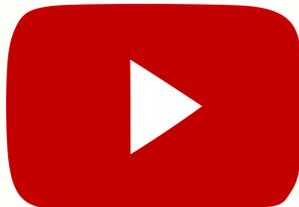
For the most up to date  
information and programming  
efforts:

*Follow Us!*



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- Hardin AgriLife Extension
- Hardin County 4-H Youth  
and Development



YouTube

**Hardin County 4-H**

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

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!

PO Box 610 | 1135 Redwood | Kountze, TX 77625

p: (409) 246-5128 | f: (409) 246-5201

<http://hardin.agrilife.org>

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