

# HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION RANDALL COUNTY

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter tried to hang on a little longer this Spring. Thankfully the freeze wasn't detrimental to most of our plants. Our Spring has been accompanied with some nice rain and mild temperatures. As temperatures continue to climb our growing season moves into full swing. I'm excited about the upcoming events featured in this newsletter! Mark your calendar and happy planting!

-Liz

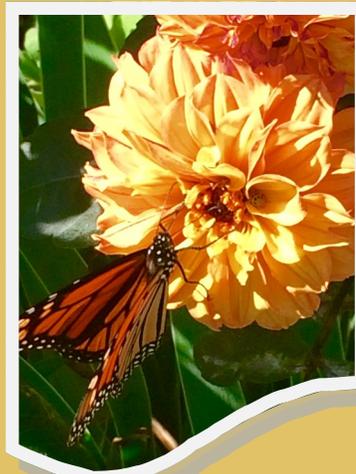


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### Dates to Remember:

- \* May 23rd Vegetable 101, noon or 6:30pm  
Randall County Extension Office
- \* June 13th Canyon Area Library Horticulture Program for Kids 10:30-11:30am
- \* June 27th Let's Talk Turf, Noon or 6:30pm  
Randall County Extension Office
- \* June 29th Xeriscape Program in Spearman  
Noon-1pm
- \* July 25th Unlocking Landscape Design,  
Noon or 6:30pm Randall County Extension Office
- \* August 22nd Trees-A Tall Subject, Noon or 6:30pm Randall County Extension Office

*AgriLife Extension delivers research-based educational programs and solutions for all Texans.*



*“A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them.”*  
 -Liberty H. Bailey

TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION RANDALL COUNTY

## SUMMER HORTICULTURE SERIES

Planting season is finally here for Randall County and I couldn't be more excited. The opportunities to plant, nurture, grow and enjoy a season's growth sums up the reason I long for this time every year. Beginning this month, Randall County AgriLife Extension will offer a Four Part Summer Horticulture Series in an effort to provide us with tips and expertise to enhance our enjoyment of this process we love. We have scheduled the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Texas A&M Randall County AgriLife Extension Office on Brown Road to invite local experts out to impart some of their wisdom and knowledge. The same program will be offered at noon and 6:30pm.

Our schedule for this series:

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Vegetable 101 with guest speaker, Dr. Ron French, Assistant Professor and Extension Plant Pathology Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Sign up by May 21st

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** - Let's Talk Turf featuring Dr. Joey Young, Texas Tech University Turf Grass Professor as the guest speaker. Sign up by June 25th

**July 25<sup>th</sup>** - Unlocking Landscape Design, presented by Dr. Bill Welch, Landscape Design Specialist, Texas A&M University. Sign up by July 23rd

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Trees-A Tall Subject given by Brian Scott, Staff Forester II, Texas A&M Forest Service. Sign up by August 20th



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
 EXTENSION

### Summer Horticulture Series

- May 23rd Vegetable 101
- June 27th Let's Talk Turf
- July 25th Unlocking Landscape Design
- August 22nd Trees-A Tall Subject

\$12 for per session

(each session will last about an hour and a half)

\$40 for complete series

Program Times:  
 (Choose one)  
 Noon-Lunch Provided  
 ~OR~  
 6:30pm-Dessert Provided  
 Randall County Extension Office  
 200 N Brown Rd.  
 Register at  
[Randall.agrilife.org](http://Randall.agrilife.org)

Thank you to our sponsors!



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Our hope for this series is to provide a concentrated time each month to focus on horticulture topics valuable to homeowners. Each program will be \$12 or attend all four programs for \$40. Lunch will be provided for the programs at noon and the evening programs will include dessert and coffee. Registration can be found at [Randall.agrilife.org](http://Randall.agrilife.org), or call 468-5543 or email Liz Moore at [liz.moore@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:liz.moore@ag.tamu.edu). We are pleased to announce our appreciation for our series sponsors: Canyon Chiropractic, Lady Bug Termite and Pest Services, ProChem Sales and Irwin Greenhouses.

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### Repetition:

Landscape design term focused on the repeated use of elements or features. Can be used to create patterns or a sequence. Repeating line, form, color and texture creates rhythm in the landscape and holds the composition of the landscape together.



We're on the Web!  
[Randall.agrilife.org](http://Randall.agrilife.org)

## SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

In light of the recent weather, it's only appropriate this newsletter address soil moisture. How can we adjust our watering patterns to best utilize the showers of blessings we have received?

The first thing we can do is turn off our sprinkler systems for now. Eliminate the use of municipal water on our landscapes during periods we are receiving rain. When we receive 1/2 inch to 1 inch of rain, we don't need to water for 2 days. When we receive over 1 inch of rain, we don't need to water for 4 days. With the mild temperatures of a typical May and June, the times between watering can be increased. Our soil does a good job of holding moisture so even if we have sunny, hot days following a nice rain, there is water available in the soil for plants to utilize. In fact, by allowing the upper inches of soil to dry out, you force your plants to search for water by growing new, deeper roots. Cutting back on watering actually increases the root mass of your plants which means the plants will respond better during the drier months of July and August. I like to say, "You won't have to babysit your plants" during the drier months.

Another way to hold moisture in the soil is raise your lawn mower to a higher setting (1 1/2 to 3 inches). Taller grass shoots provide shade for the roots and any exposed soil surface which will help hold moisture in the soil profile. As always, in your flower beds and vegetable gardens, a 3 inch layer of mulch holds moisture in the soil and also lessens the impact of heavy rainfall and reduces erosion.

If some of you are like me, I received a rain barrel for Mother's Day a couple of years back and it has quickly filled it up (actually, it has overflowed) multiple times. When it is filled, you may be wondering what on earth to do now. A simple idea is to hook up a soaker hose that you have buried beneath your mulch layer in your flower beds or vegetable garden. By simply utilizing gravity, you can water your flower bed or vegetable garden with rain water efficiently and minimize evaporation. Rain water is so good for our alkaline soil because rain water is slightly acidic, providing a good balance to our typical soil makeup. During drier months when your rain barrel sits empty, it still can be used. Why not fill it at least part way with municipal water and utilize the soaker hose you already have in place to continue watering in an efficient manner. This also eliminates the inevitable moment when you forget to turn off the water in the flower bed (or maybe that is just me). When the rain barrel is empty, that's it, you no longer run the risk of watering the sidewalk!

Prayerfully our weekly showers will continue this summer and our reliance on municipal water for landscapes will greatly reduce. This is not only good for the community but is also good for everyone's pocket book.



## GARDEN TIPS

Texas Panhandle spring nights can be rather chilly. If you notice a black spot on your fruit like the one pictured, your Tomato plant is deficient in Calcium. Tomato plants are like Goldilocks, they like growing conditions to be just right. When they are outside growing in cooler night time temperatures, they use up the calcium stores on supporting new plant growth and proper cell health. When it is time to set fruit, the Calcium is no longer available and Blossom End Rot will occur. If you see

this symptom, simply apply a Tomato specific fertilizer or a fertilizer that has Calcium and future Tomatoes will be back to perfect!

