

Agriculture & Horticulture

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL
RESOURCES

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BOA Tip of the Month: Calving Kit

It pays to be prepared. Before calving season begins, take time to assemble a calving kit with materials and tools to help with calving problems or newborn calves struggling to nurse.

The kit should include calving or OB chains, OB handles, OB lubricant or vegetable oil, disinfection solution like chlorhexidine, nitrile or latex gloves, a few palpation sleeves, a rope halter, a factsheet on recognizing and handling calving problems, and any other helpful items specific to your operation.

An esophageal tube feeder, bottle and colostrum are also good to have on hand in case calves have trouble nursing. Colostrum comes in a bagged option with a three year shelf life.

(This "BOA Tip" is excerpted monthly from the cattleman magazine.)

Texas Beef Quality Assurance (TBQA) is a collaborative effort between Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers, Texas Beef Council and Texas A&M Animal Science Extension Beef Group. ANSC

Extension faculty develop resources and conduct the educational programming associated with the industry - wide effort. The mission of the program is to promote good management practices for cattle producers, in an effort to strengthen consumer confidence in beef as a wholesome food product.

Dealing with Calving Difficulties

By: Clint Perkins

The information below came from Brian Cummins who is the retired Ag Agent in Van Zandt County. It is a great article that I wanted to share with everybody.

Anyone who's been through even one calving season has most likely dealt with calving difficulties. Dystocia is the fancy word for calving difficulty, and it's the biggest cause of calf death loss at birth. Calving difficulties can be minimized by managing things like genetics and nutrition, but once the calving season starts, those things are in the past. Now it is time to watch closely and intervene if necessary. Being prepared to provide assistance is critical. It's been estimated that timely and appropriate intervention can save up to 70 percent of calves that otherwise would die due to dystocia. It's also just as important to know when not to intervene, and just let the process play out uninterrupted. The key is experience and knowing the normal sequence of events up to and through calving. It will vary tremendously between individual cows. It's also important to know the limits of our abilities and when to call professional help. In fact, part of your preparation should be to develop a plan of action with your veterinarian.

Dealing with Calving Difficulties

By: Clint Perkins

This is just a refresher of what to look for during calving. Remember, these signs are extremely variable, and may go completely unnoticed.

As calving approaches, two weeks or more out:

- udder fills out, "makes a bag." Can be even more gradual in first-calf heifers;
- vulva will noticeably relax and enlarge, "springing";
- cervical or mucous plug may dislodge and be excreted.

12 to 24 hours out:

- pelvic ligaments will relax, resulting in "lank" appearance around tail and pins.

12 hours out:

- possible behavioral changes; trying to isolate herself, not coming to feed, etc.

At calving

The calving process itself is divided into three stages:

Stage one; starts when the cervix begins to dilate in preparation for delivery; may begin to have minor contractions, but often go unnoticed; may isolate herself; and show signs of discomfort like tail switching, licking her side, stomping her feet; may elevate tail; and increased mucous discharge. Although stage one may precede the birth of the calf by four to 24 hours, it's common to check things out when the cow has been in stage one for more than eight hours without progressing to stage two.

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Stage two; begins when the membranes and fetus move into the birth canal and ends after the calf is born. Contractions provide the force necessary to deliver the calf. In a normal birth, the first water bag appears and/or ruptures, then comes the amnion (fetal sac) or, if it ruptures internally, the front feet (hooves down) followed quickly by the calf's muzzle and head. Any other presentation of the calf is not normal and should be investigated.

Contractions grow in intensity and frequency, the rest of the calf is pushed through the pelvic canal, and delivery is complete. A generally accepted length for stage two is two to four hours from when the first water bag appears or breaks; for cows, usually less than two hours; for heifers, less than four hours. Work at Oklahoma State University and the USDA station at Miles City, Montana, indicates these times should be shortened to 60 to 90 minutes for heifers and 30 to 60 minutes for cows. At the very most, then, intervention should be considered if the calf is not born within two hours after the first water bag appears. After intervening, if no progress is made in 30 minutes, consider calling the veterinarian.

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Stage Three; expulsion of the afterbirth, usually naturally within eight hours. Given the time frame of a normal birth, the most logical frequency to check the herd during calving to catch most of the potential problems would be at least every three hours. Remember, no cow is going to follow this series of events to the letter. One may "make a bag" six weeks before calving; another may simply come to feed one morning with a newborn calf. The key is being prepared, knowing what is normal and what is abnormal and providing appropriate assistance when necessary.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Smith County Extension Office located at 1517 W. Front Street in Tyler or call 903-590-2980.



It's Time to Plant Fruit and Nut Trees

By: Greg Grant

Now is the time to plant fruit (and nut) trees. Before a fruit tree is planted, make sure there is adequate space. Most fruit trees require an area 25 feet by 25 feet. The site must have a full day's sun. And, a single blight resistant pear tree, properly cared for, can eventually produce two bushels of fruit (about one hundred pounds) so don't plant too many fruit trees for your needs or your ability to care for them.

Fruit trees (especially bare root ones) are best planted in mid-winter to allow time for root development prior to spring growth. First, clear the site of weeds or grass, and till or spade an area at least 4 feet by 4 feet. Any hard pan (layer) beneath the soil should be broken up. Level the site, and till again. Organic matter may be added to the planting area, but it is unnecessary, and never add fertilizer. To allow for drainage, the site may be built up so that the tree will be sitting on a small berm.

Plant the tree in the middle of the tilled area in a hole as big as the root system, usually about 12 inches wide, and as deep as the root system. Plant the tree and refill the soil to the same depth that the tree grew in at the nursery, being careful the tree does not settle too deep.

It's Time to Plant Fruit and Nut Trees

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Mulch the area around the trunk with about three inches of compost, pine straw, or mulch to prevent weeds and to keep the ground warmer during the winter. In April or May, as the grass greens up, spray 3 or 4 feet around the base of the tree with glyphosate herbicide if weeds are a problem (being careful not to spray leafy sprouts on the trunk) or add new mulch to keep the weeds out and the ground cooler during the summer. It is critical that this be done if the tree is to perform well. If you do little else, maintain this weed-free circle around the tree.

Only plant varieties adapted to and recommended for this area. Many types of fruit and nut trees don't grow well or at all here, especially northern and European selections. Select mid-size trees; they are cheaper and grow better than larger trees.

Plus, it is far easier to cut 3- to 4-foot trees back to 18 to 24 inches, than to prune 5- to 6-foot trees. Such strong pruning is necessary to remove apical dominance, put the top in balance with a reduced root system, and force out strong vigorous shoots which are easy to train.

The trees should have healthy white roots with no brown streaks. Be sure to prune off broken or shriveled roots. With proper care, it is highly possible for your fruit tree to fruit the second year after planting. For a list of recommended fruit and nut varieties for Smith County, see the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Smith County website. For more information on growing specific fruits and nuts in Texas, go to "Fruit and Nut Resources" on the Aggie Horticulture website.



TURNIP GREENS

BY: ANTHONY BROWN

TURNIP GREENS ARE A PART OF THE CABBAGE FAMILY AND ARE COOL SEASON CROPS THAT THRIVE WELL IN EARLY SPRING AND FALL MONTHS OF THE YEAR. THIS GREEN IS SPECIAL BECAUSE YOU CAN EAT THE LEAVES AND COOK THE ROOT WHICH IS LIKE COOKING POTATOES OR BEETS. THIS VEGETABLE ALSO GIVES OFF A GOOD SOURCE OF VITAMIN A AND C. THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF TURNIPS SUCH AS: ALAMO, ALL TOP, SEVEN TOP, SHOGOIN, AND TOPPER. GOOD ROOT VARIETY'S: JUST RIGHT HYBRID, PURPLE TOP, WHITE GLOBE, ROYAL CROWN, ROYAL GLOBE, TOKYO CROSS, AND WHITE LADY. SOMETHING TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING WHICH VARIETY TO PLANT; NOTE A GOOD ROOT VARIETY WILL ALSO PRODUCE GREENS, BUT IF YOU ARE SELECTING A VARIETY BASED ON LEAF PRODUCTION, THE ROOT MAY NOT BE AS PRODUCTIVE.

TURNIPS SHOULD BE PLANTED IN WELL DRAINED SOILS AND IN SUN BEARING AREAS. IF THE SOIL HAS A HEAVY CONTENT OF CLAY, IT IS ADVISED THAT YOU ADD ORGANIC MATTER TO THAT SPECIFIED AREA TO LOOSEN THE SOIL. AS SOON AS THE GROUND CAN BE WORKED IN THE EARLY SPRING, THAT WOULD BE THE BEST TIME TO PLANT. THE SOIL TEMPERATURE SHOULD BE 40 DEGREES OR HIGHER, FOR SEEDS TO SPROUT. 8 TO 10 WEEKS BEFORE THE FIRST FROST IS A GOOD TIME TO PLANT IN THE FALL OF THE YEAR. RIDGES 6 TO 8 INCHES HIGH AND 18 TO 24 INCHES APART IS RECOMMENDED FOR PLANTING TURNING. IN ADDITION TO THIS, DRAG HOE OR RAKE PREPARED PROPERLY.

TURNIP GREENS

BY: ANTHONY BROWN

BEFORE PLANTING PRODUCERS ARE ADVISED TO SCATTER 2 TO 3 POUNDS OF FERTILIZER TO COVER 100 FEET, A GOOD RATIO IS 1 CUP OF FERTILIZER TO 10 FEET LONGS ROWS.

TURNIPS NEED AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF NITROGEN TO MAINTAIN THE DARK GREEN COLOR. WHEN PLANTS ARE ABOUT 4 TO 5 INCHES TALL, APPLY $\frac{1}{2}$ CUP OF FERTILIZER TO 10 FEET ROWS.

TURNIPS THAT DO NOT GET AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF RAIN, PRODUCERS SHOULD SOAK THE AREA WITH WATER, SOME AREAS WILL REQUIRE MORE LEVELS THAN OTHERS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU KEEP PLANTS FREE OF WEEDS IN EARLY STAGES OF GROWTH. AT GARDEN CENTERS OR FEED STORES, PRODUCERS CAN FIND INSECTICIDES, SEVIN IS THE MOST COMMON INSECTICIDE USED TO HELP ELIMINATE PREDATORS TO TURNIP GREENS. FLEA BEETLES, CABBAGE LOOPER, APHIDS, AND ROOT MAGGOT, ARE COMMON INSECTS THAT ARE HARMFUL TO TURNIP GREENS. MAKE SURE TO PROPERLY READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING INSECTICIDES AND FOLLOW WAIT TIMES TO HARVEST AND PREPARE FOOD. TURNIP GREENS WILL BE READY FOR HARVEST IN ABOUT 40 DAYS AFTER YOU PLANT THEM, AND THE ROOTS WILL BE READY IN 50 TO 60 DAYS. WHEN WEATHER IS TOO HOT TURNIP GREENS WILL HAVE A STRONG BITTER FLAVOR AND BE TOUGH TO EAT.

Things To do in March

Plant Care

- Divide summer and fall-blooming perennials.
- Plant summer-blooming bulbs and tubers, such as crinums, cannas, daylilies, montbretia, hymenocallis, and lilies.
- Control weeds and refresh mulch in beds to retain moisture, moderate temperatures, and preventweeds.
- After the danger of frost, set out tomato, pepper, and eggplant transplants and seed summer vegetables such as corn, beans, cucumbers, and squash. Rotate the planting position of the vegetable species from previous seasons to decrease disease likelihood.
- Begin planting summer bedding plants and perennial salvias after last frost (do not plant periwinkles until June).
- Allow spring and fall bulb foliage to die naturally in order to feed the bulb for next year. Don't cut off till after Mother's Day or yellow.
- Cut back frozen perennials, tropicals, and any freeze damage on shrubs.

Fertilize

- Apply 3:1:2 lawn fertilizer (15-5-10, 18-6-12 etc.) to annual bedding plants and vegetables.
- Do not fertilize lawns until mid-April when nights are warm and you've mowed the grass (not the weeds) several times.

Pests

- Treat pests as they arise. Consider using proven organic or least toxic remedies for the health of your family and our earth, especially in the vegetable garden. Remember insects can be cured but diseases can only be prevented.
- Check crapemyrtles for bark scale and treat with a systemic insecticide when they first leaf out, but no later so as not to kill bees and pollinators.

Odds and Ends

- Canes of climbers should be secured.
- Water gardens should be drained, cleaned, and replanted as needed.
- Butterfly bushes (buddleia) should be cut back by $\frac{3}{4}$.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide ASAP for crabgrass, grassburs, and other annual summer weeds if they haven't already germinated.
- Carefully apply broadleaf herbicide to weeds in lawn (weed and feed fertilizers are not very effective and not recommended).

Helpful Resources

HORTICULTURE

East Texas Gardening with Keith Hansen: easttexasgardening.com

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/easttexasgardening](https://www.facebook.com/easttexasgardening)

Greg Grant's Blog: arbogate.com/gregs-ramblings

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/ggrantgardens](https://www.facebook.com/ggrantgardens)

Neil Sperry's Web Site: neilsperry.com

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/NeilSperryTexas](https://www.facebook.com/NeilSperryTexas)

Plant Answers: plantanswers.com

Texas Gardener Magazine: texasgardener.com

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/texasgardenermagazine](https://www.facebook.com/texasgardenermagazine)

AGRICULTURE

Ranch TV: <https://ranchtv.org>

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/ranchtv/](https://www.facebook.com/ranchtv/)

Texas A&M Wildlife and Fisheries Extension: <https://wfsc.tamu.edu>

Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WFSCAgriLife>

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/wfscextension/](https://www.facebook.com/wfscextension/)

Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute: <https://nri.tamu.edu>

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/tamuNRI/](https://www.facebook.com/tamuNRI/)

Wild Pig Resources and Videos: <https://feralhogs.tamu.edu>

UNIVERSITY BASED

Texas A&M Aggie Horticulture: aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/aggiehorticulture](https://www.facebook.com/aggiehorticulture)

Integrated Pest Management: ipm.tamu.edu

Insect Answers and Information: citybugs.tamu.edu

Disease Diagnostic Laboratory: plantclinic.tamu.edu

Turf and Grass Care: aggeturf.tamu.edu

Texas A&M Forestry Service: tfsweb@tamu.edu

Soil Testing Information: soiltesting.tamu.edu

GARDENS

SFA Gardens in Nacogdoches: sfagardens.sfasu.edu

The Gardens at Texas A&M: gardens.tamu.edu



Vegetable Garden Planting Guide

for the Tyler Area

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
ASPARAGUS (Crowns)												
BASIL *												
BEANS, BUSH & POLE												
BEETS												
BROCCOLI *												
BRUSSEL SPROUTS *												
CABBAGE *												
CANTALOUPE (Muskmelon)												
CARROTS												
CAULIFLOWER *												
CHARD, SWISS												
CILANTRO												
COLLARDS/KALE *												
CORN, SWEET												
CUCUMBER												
DILL												
EGGPLANT *												
GARLIC (Cloves)												
LETUCE (leaf)												
MUSTARD												
OKRA												
ONION (sets)												
PARSLEY *												
PEAS, ENGLISH/SNOW												
PEAS, SOUTHERN												
PEPPERS *												
POTATO, IRISH (Tubers)												
POTATO, SWEET (slips)												
PUMPKIN												
RADISH												
ROSEMARY*												
SPINACH												
SQUASH, SUMMER												
SQUASH, WINTER												
TOMATOES *												
TURNIPS												
WATERMELON												

* = TRANSPLANTS

Plant seed unless otherwise noted

By: Greg Grant, Smith County Extension Agent- August 2021



WEED & BRUSH CONTROL HERBICIDES

Restricted Use¹ or State-Limited Use²

Herbicides

Grazon P+D (and Generics)
Tordon 22K
Surmount
MezaVue Graslan
L GrazonNext HL
2,4-D
Weedar 64 Weedone
LV6 Weedmaster
Banvel (Dicamba)
Cimarron Max

Non-Restricted Use Herbicides

Chaparral
PastureGard HL
Remedy Ultra (and Generics)
VelPar L
Cimarron Extra
Cimarron Plus
60% Metsulfuron Methyl (MSM)
Pastora
Round Up (Generic Glyphosate)
Spike 20P
Spike 80 DF
Outrider
Plateau (or generic “imazapic”)
DuraCor
PROWL H₂O (Pre-Emergent)
Rezilon (Pre-Emergent)

¹Restricted Use: for purchase and use by certified pesticide applicators or persons under their direct supervision. Designation is placed on the product by EPA, and the label will state restricted-use

²State-Limited Use: pesticides containing certain active ingredients, with the potential to cause adverse effects to non-targeted vegetation, are classified as SLU when distributed in containers larger than one quart liquid or 2 pounds dry or solid.

The use of product names is not intended as an endorsement of the product or of a specific manufacturer, nor is there any implication that other formulations containing the same active chemical are not equally as effective. Product names are included solely to aid readers in locating and identifying the herbicide suggested.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is implied.

This publication is no substitute for the herbicide product labels. It is intended to serve only as a guide for controlling weeds in pasture and forages. Labeled rates and restrictions change constantly, therefore, consult the product label before use.



12th Bilingual Tree Worker
Workshop/Taller Bilingüe del
Cuidado y Seguridad en Árboles
March 3, 2022



12th Bilingual Tree Worker Workshop Taller Bilingüe del Cuidado y Seguridad en Árboles

March 3, 2022

It is time for the 12th Bilingual Tree Care & Safety Workshop in San Antonio.

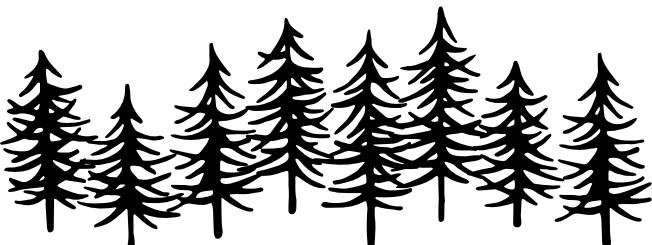
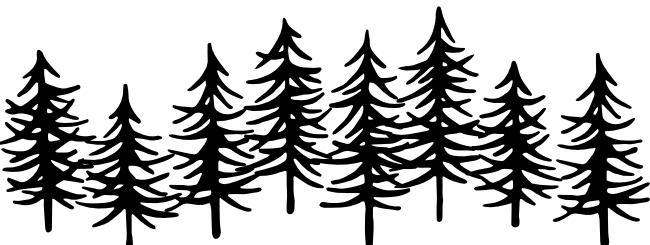
Learn from tree care leaders Dr. Demin Gomez "Wood Decay- Effect on Climbing", Eric Palacios "Aerial Rescue Techniques", Jared Abrojena "Work Positioning & Precision cutting on a Spar" and more. They will take your knowledge and career to new heights. Please join us again this year, or for the first time. Your time will be valued, and you will get to see your fellow arborists.

We hope to see you there!

Note: Early registration ends February 28, 2022

See link below for more information and to register!

<https://isatexas.com/event/2022-saaa-bilingual-tree-worker-workshop/>





PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

**Friday, May 13, 2022
First United Methodist Church
204 Hwy 31 West Chandler, Texas 75758
8:30 am to 12:00 pm**

An opportunity to obtain the required training for Private Applicators. ***Training only, testing will not be offered during this training.*** The Texas Department of Agriculture no longer offers paper exams. ***Testing procedures will be explained during the training.***

The training is required for all Private Applicators. Study materials are available for purchase for \$40 including the Private Applicator General Manual, the Texas Department of Agriculture's Laws and Regulations Manual, and all the handouts/worksheets needed for this training. These materials can be purchased ahead of the class for review or the day of the training. A \$10 Registration fee will be charged for a total of \$50.00 for this training course. **Cash, Credit Card, or check** made payable to the Livestock and Forage Committee.

Contact:

*To register for Training and/or to purchase study materials call
(903) 590-2980

Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension program should contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at (903) 590-2980 at least one week prior to the program or event.

"Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider."

"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"

"SMITH COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PRESENTS"

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JOIN US AT 11:30 AM AT THE
TAYLOR AUDITORIUM OF THE TYLER PUBLIC LIBRARY
201 SO. COLLEGE AVE TYLER, TX 75702

LECTURES ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

JANUARY 21 "TREATMENT: ARBORICULTURE FOR THE HOMEOWNER"

CITY OF TYLER ARBORIST MADELINE BURTON WILL DISCUSS HOW TREES CAN BE A VALUABLE ADDITION TO YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY, BUT THEY HAVE THEIR OWN SET OF OBSTACLES. PROPER SELECTION AND CARE OF TREES INCLUDING THE RIGHT TREE FOR THE RIGHT PLACE, PRUNING AND SIGNS THAT A TREE NEEDS HELP WILL BE DISCUSSED.

FEBRUARY 18 "SOME LIKE IT HOT – PLANTS THAT LOVE SUMMER IN TEXAS"

BY SMITH COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANDI RATHBONE. TEXAS SUMMERS ARE FAMOUS NOT ONLY FOR BOTH THEIR HEAT AND THE LENGTH OF TIME WE MUST ENDURE THAT HEAT. HOW HEAT AFFECTS PLANTS, WHAT HEAT ZONES ARE AND WHAT PLANTS THRIVE IN OUR SIZZLING TEXAS SUMMERS WILL BE DISCUSSED.

MARCH 18 "FLAPPING ABOUT BUTTERFLIES"

GREG GRANT, TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION HORTICULTURE AGENT FOR SMITH COUNTY WILL TEACH US ABOUT SOME OF THE SHOWIEST AND MOST COMMON EAST TEXAS BUTTERFLIES ALONG WITH WHICH PLANTS THAT HOST THEM AND WHICH PLANTS THEY NECTAR ON.

APRIL 22 "SAVING THE WORLD WITH HOMEGROWN BOUQUETS"

BY JANY WHITE, EDITOR OF TEXAS GARDENER. 90 % OF THE CUT FLOWERS SOLD IN THE U.S. ARE NOW GROWN OVERSEAS. WHILE BEAUTIFUL, THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN CUT FLOWERS COMES AT A HIGH COST TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PEOPLE THAT GROW THEM. LEARN HOW TO "SAVE THE WORLD" BY GROWING YOUR OWN CUT FLOWERS OR SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN PRODUCERS THAT PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO AMERICAN CONSUMERS. SELECTED GUESTS GET TO MAKE THEIR OWN HOMEMADE FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS USING TECHNIQUES DISCUSSED IN THE LECTURE.

MAY 20 "NIGHT GARDENS: THE MAGIC MIX OF PLANTS AND MOONLIGHT"

BY SMITH COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ELIZABETH WALDROP. GARDENS THAT ARE PLANTED TO BE AT THEIR MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE EVENING AND BY MOONLIGHT ARE A MAGICAL SENSORY EXPERIENCE. THEY ALSO ALLOW GARDENERS WHO ARE BUSY DURING THE DAY TO EXPERIENCE THEIR GARDENS WHEN THEY HAVE TIME TO ENJOY THEM. ALSO DISCUSSED ARE HISTORIC NIGHT GARDENS, BASIC DESIGN PLANS FOR YOUR OWN AND THE ENCHANTING PLANTS THAT BRING THESE GARDENS TO LIFE.

The members of the Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veterans status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state or local law and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.