

August 2020

Big Country Master Gardener
Association Newsletter
Bcmgtx.org

Upcoming Events

August 18 Meeting

Time and place to be Determined

Please watch your email for meeting information, additional workdays, and date to complete the 2nd ring in the Demo Beds at the Extension Office.

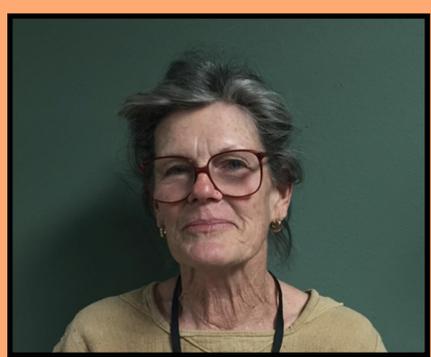


2020 Officers

- President – Sandy Shaw
- President Elect – Jackie Sledge
- Vice President – Sarah Adams
- Secretary – Terry Shuffield
- Treasurer – Richard O’Shields
- Past President – Gene Shelhamer

The Garden Thymes

A message from our president.....Sandy Shaw



We are lucky that Gardening is our pleasure!

Each and every month I think will be the last - the last time we will have restrictions, and we will be able, finally, to bring food to share and enjoy fellowship as we always have before our monthly meeting. We are lucky in the fact that it is actually healthy to be outside during these times...we had several things on our agenda last week that would gather those needed volunteer hours, and be a chance to be out and about.

Tuesday, August 4th was a visit to Thomas Elementary School- 1240 Lakeside at 8am. John Geib led a corner drip irrigation project, requested by school personnel.

Wednesday, August 5, was a one hour worktime at Meditation Garden (First Central Presbyterian Church) led by Anita Green and Dianne Bennett. Both of these activities were early bird-ish to beat the heat. We all enjoyed the new information.

Then, Saturday, August 8th ...grape harvest!! At Trails End Vineyard. The workday was 7am till harvest was completed. Fun was had by all.

If these activities didn't get you going, just meander to your own back or front yard (or, your neighbors' yard) and get to work. It will clear your head and make you happy.

Say a prayer, count your blessings and cross your fingers- it will all be different soon enough!

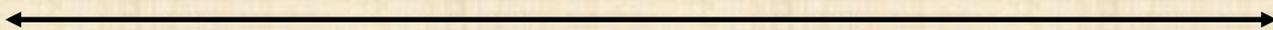
2020 Advanced Training Offerings (Contact Jo Rake for application)



Greenhouse Management Online course

Deadline to register is Oct. 1, 2020
Advanced Master Gardener Training Greenhouse
Management

October 16, 23 & 30, 2020 Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service, Tarrant County



Advanced Master Gardener Training Rainwater Harvesting Online Course

Deadline to register is August 28, 2020
September 11, 18 & 25, 2020



Gardening Tip

Plant trees inside landscape plantings if at all possible to eliminate having to mow around them in the lawn. You will also be able to water the tree and the landscape plants at the same time!

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE KITCHEN

Vegetable Pizza Appetizers



Crust:

2 pkg crescent dinner rolls

1 (8-oz) pkg cream cheese (may use light)

1 c real mayo (may use low calorie)

1 small pkg Hidden Valley Ranch dressing or dip mix

- Pat rolls into jelly roll pan and bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool. Mix cream cheese and mayo, and spread over cooled crust.

Topping:

1 c diced tomatoes

4 green onions, chopped

$\frac{3}{4}$ c shredded carrots

1 c shredded cheese

$\frac{3}{4}$ c cauliflower, cut into bits

$\frac{3}{4}$ c chopped celery

$\frac{1}{2}$ c diced bell pepper

- Place finely chopped vegetables on surface of pizza. Mix colors and textures. Refrigerate overnight. Cut into small triangles or squares with pizza cutter.

Options: Can use other fresh vegetables such as broccoli, squash, zucchini, etc. with the above veggies or in place of ones you do not have on hand or want to use.

What To Do In August



- Plant fall flower seeds in flats so you can plant them outside in middle to late fall. Examples are dianthus, snapdragons, pansies, kale.
- Plant St. Augustine, Bermuda, zoysia, and buffalo grass early in the month so the grass will have time to get established before winter. Be sure to water morning and evening daily for the first two to three weeks.
- Plant bluebonnet and other spring wildflower seeds now. Bluebonnets need to germinate in late summer or early fall to develop a good root system so they'll be ready to do well in the spring.
- Regularly deadhead your annuals and perennials to encourage better growth and blooms.
- If your annuals such as petunias or verbenas get too leggy, prune them back to encourage new growth. Use the same method if they are in the ground or in containers.
- Remove old flower stalks and dead foliage from your perennials.
- Check your mulch levels, and add more if necessary.
- Plant fall-flowering bulbs like spider lily, belladonna and oxblood lily, and crocus.
- Add mums and zinnias for more fall color. They are hardy even in the heat.
- Plant fall-flowering perennials such as asters, Copper Canyon Daisy, and Mexican Bush Sage.
- Plant bean, cucumber, and squash seeds for your fall garden. Wait until late this month to plant broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, and cauliflower. Leafy and root crops should be planted very late this month.



- Fertilize lawn, landscape plants, and container plants.
- Watch for pests in your yards and gardens, and treat them as necessary.
- Don't forget to feed and water the birds. Change the water in bird baths regularly, and change your hummingbird feeders every other year to prevent bacteria and algae from forming.

Information from Neil Sperry and Doug Welsh.



Project Committee Update!!

Ring number 1 is planted!



Finally!...We have a good start on the 'Ring' plantings! This past Wednesday, (at 7:30am!) we dug into the gathered supplies and under the guidance of our guru Juanita Campos, we began building the famous concoction that is almost a true keyhole project, but not



quite. If it had a wire tube to feed compost down the middle of the ring it would be true to form. Instead, it has the right proportions of soil, manure, straw, cardboard, etc.... to gel into a rich medium that will grow anything!! Molly took the spot in the center of the ring to man the steady stream of water, and worked at packing every addition. One of the secrets of successful keyhole soil is the abundance of water and tight packing of newspaper and cardboard "rolls".



There is no way to describe the mud mess we made! Even with extra cardboard laid on top to stand on, Juanita managed to lose a boot sucked into the mire!

So, we planted the number one ring with all Super Stars. There is Princess Caroline Grass in the center, with declared superstar varieties of Lantana, Angelonia, Lemon Balm, Vinca, Pentas, etc. It looks good now but will be beautiful when full and rooted in all of that rich yummy soil.



Next is the ring #2...the plan for it will be fall and winter veggies. We thought we had plenty of cardboard, but we always run low. We decided to do #2 in two or three weeks as soon as we collect enough supplies again to pack it as we did the first. Please save your cardboard and dried leaves, grass clippings, coffee grounds. We will notify by email when date of next 'build' is to happen, hope you can join the fun!



Perennial Vegetables

When we think about perennials in our landscape, we usually think about the numerous perennial plants with interesting foliage and beautiful flowers.

But...

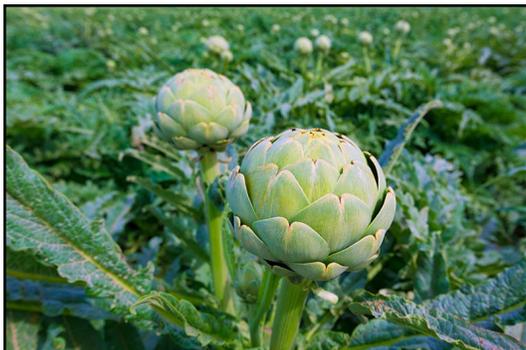
There is an entirely different group of plants known as perennial vegetables that we should consider when planning our landscape, and the following are some reasons for using these plants:

- Perennial vegetables are reliable performers and producers.
- They come back year after year and require minimal maintenance compared to annual vegetables.
- They are often virtually indestructible.
- They can help prevent soil erosion.
- Some perennial vegetables produce their own fertilizer and also introduce nutrients into the soil that are needed by other plants.
- They can attract beneficial insects.
- Taller perennial vegetables provide shade for sun-sensitive plants.



There are a few disadvantages to planting perennial vegetables, and they are:

- Many of them are slow growing so it may take a couple of years to become established enough to produce anything that can be eaten.
- Some perennial vegetables have strong flavors that are unfamiliar and taste very different to what we normally eat.
- Perennial vegetables are generally low maintenance, but some can become invasive if they are totally ignored.
- They are not as easy to find in seed and nursery suppliers.
- Perennial vegetables take more planning than annuals because they will continue to grow in the same place year after year. Be sure you know where you want them to grow in your landscape before you put the plants or seeds in the ground.



Perennial Vegetables cont.....

Perennial vegetables are generally classified in three groups of plants – leafy greens and shoots, the onion family, and roots and tubers. The following is a list of some perennial vegetables that grow in zone 8a:

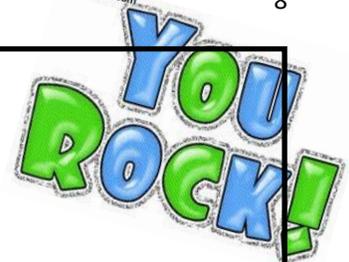
- Asparagus
- Kale
- Broccoli
- Rhubarb
- Artichoke
- Horseradish
- French sorrel
- Lovage
- Tree onion
- Radicchio
- Collards
- Watercress
- Jerusalem artichoke



You can find a lot of information about perennial vegetables online, and there are also numerous recipes available to help you use your new type of vegetable crop. The simplest way to use perennial vegetables is to substitute them for similar annuals, and some examples are:

- Perennial kales, cabbages, leaf beet, or other leaves as a cooked green vegetable dish (steaming may be preferable over boiling).
- Perennial salad greens in salads in place of or in additional to traditional ingredients.
- Perennial onions raw and cooked in place of annual onions.
- Perennial roots in place of potatoes, parsnips, etc.
- Use perennial vegetables to make a hearty soup.

Check out perennial vegetables, and maybe add one or more in your landscape so you can move toward a more sustainable, and tasty, landscape.



Please remember to nominate an individual (even yourself) for the You Rock Award. The nomination should be for someone who has done something outstanding during the month.

Although not much has been going on with Master Gardeners, we continue to have those who have done work.

Anita Green reported 42.5 hours and will receive the Busy Bee Award for June. She has worked on the Meandering Garden project researching plants/trees/bushes. The Meandering Garden was considered a "community service" project for an elder woman. It involved garden bed weeding, tree/bush pruning, vine removal, and weeding of a rock garden plus crushed granite application.

Jean Seymore was nominated for the You Rock Award for her virtual tour video. We had a number of great garden tours; however, the video took it to a different level with music and pictures. Thank you, Jean, for going the extra mile. The video was beautifully done.

You may nominate someone you think worthy of getting the You Rock Award.

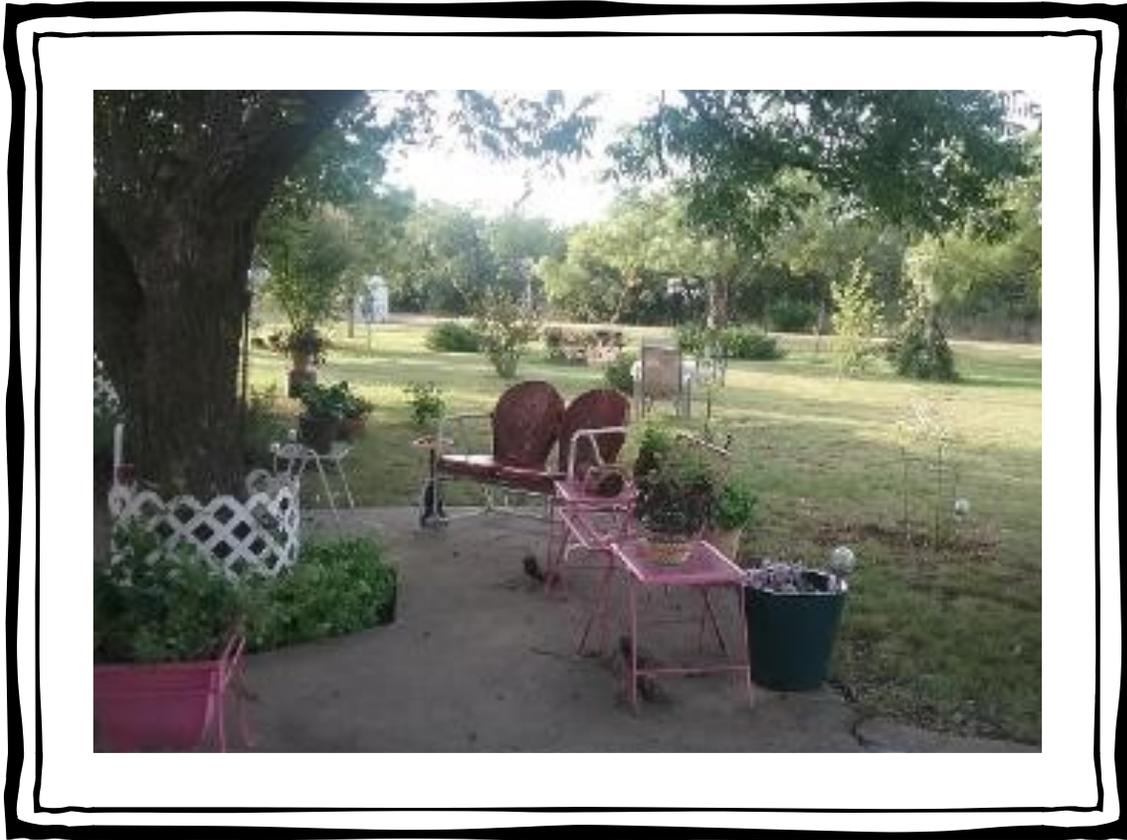
We are always open to suggestions.

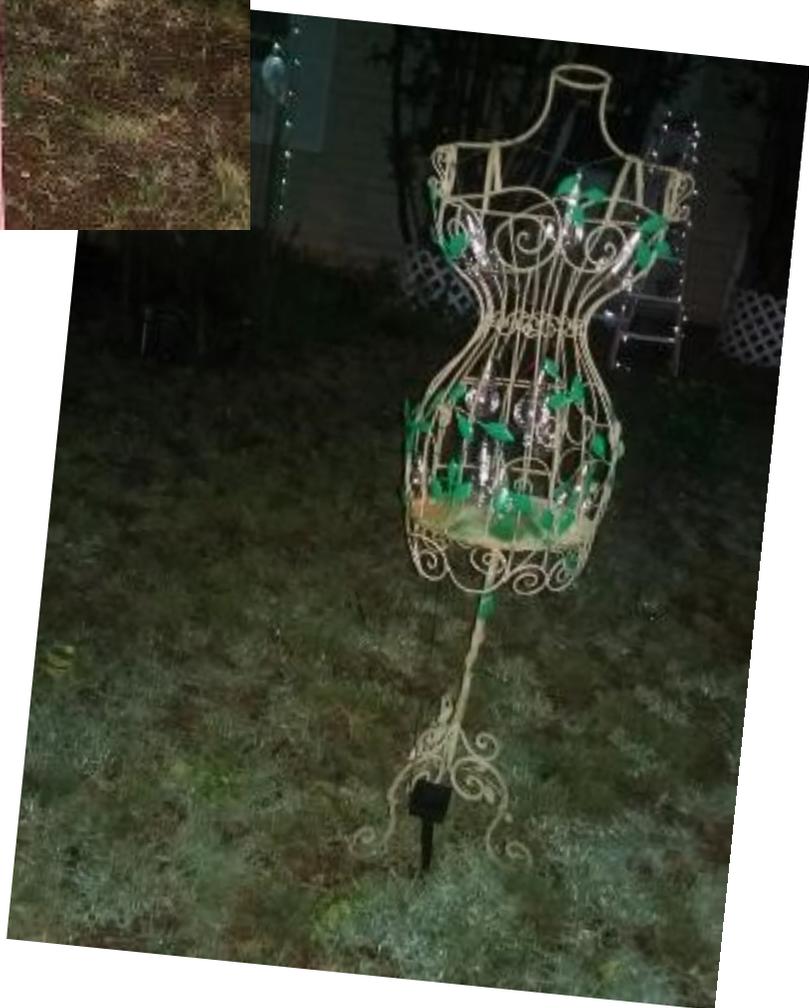
Dorothy Kiser

dkiser44@gmail.com



A fun tour of Sherry Gilmore's garden....







August

August 1 Donna Long-Wolfer

August 2 Lucy Geib

August 6 Steven Davis

August 11 Sarah Adams

August 12 Pat Hart

August 12 Linda Poe

August 24 Jean Dotson

August 25 Elaine Lee

August 25 Ellen Presley

August 26 Kathy Turner

August 29 Rhonda Blanton

