



TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



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Howdy!

No Agriculture agent in site so let's talk about spring preparations for West Texas Gardeners!

Spring is in just a few days, although I bet we have one more little cold snap. Hopefully you have already made some plans back when it was really too cool to be outside digging in the soil, and are just waiting for the that soil to warm up so you can get going. I have included a few winter tips, just for good measure.

Be sure to call the Extension office with your Horticulture questions. We have lots of resources to help you with your gardening experiences.

Happy gardening, Abigail



Garden Checklist for January/February

Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

- Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs while they are dormant.
- Make flower and vegetable garden plans now before the rush of spring planting. Time spent in armchair gardening before the fireplace will pay off in improved plant selection. Besides, it is fun to page through the garden catalogs.
- Sow seeds in flats or containers to get a jump on plant growth before hot weather arrives. Warm temperature plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, marigolds, and periwinkles, should be sown in late January or early February.
- Prepare beds and garden area for spring planting.
- Check junipers and other narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworm pouches. The insect eggs overwinter in the pouch, and start the cycle again by emerging in the spring to begin feeding on the foliage. Hand removal and burning of the pouches are ways of reducing the potential damage next spring.
- The life of the plant received as a Christmas gift can be prolonged with proper care. Keep the soil moist, but provide drainage so that excess moisture can flow from the pot. Keep the plant out of range of heating ducts & away from heating units. Keep in a cool room at night, preferably at 60 to 65 degrees F.
- Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly the first year.

Adapted by Abigail Pritchard from Aggie Horticulture

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/2013/jan-feb/garden-checklist.html>

Retrieved March 12, 2018

Garden Checklist for March

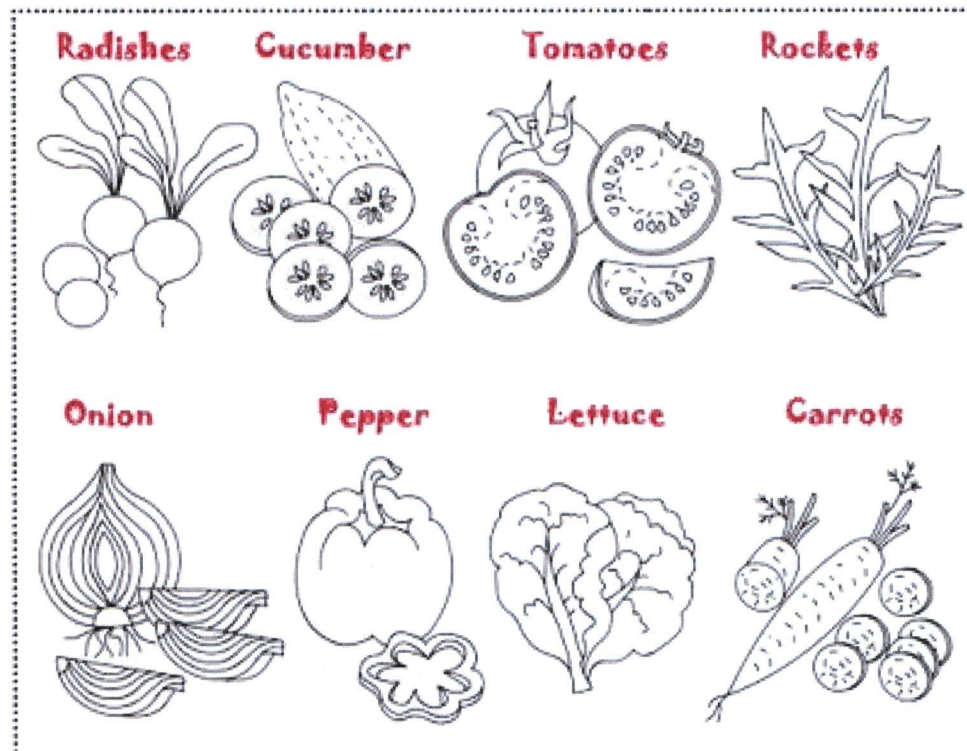
Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist,
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- Often, tomato and pepper plants started outdoors from seed will grow so quickly they will catch up with commercial plants in size within a few weeks. For many gardeners, this is the only way to obtain rare or heirloom varieties.
- Don't be in a hurry to set out young pepper plants. Wait until the temperatures seem to be settled.
- Pruning of evergreens and summer flowering trees and shrubs should be completed in early March. Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs as soon as they finish blooming.
- Beware of close-out sales on bare-root trees and shrubs. The chance of survival is rather low on bare-root plants this late in the season. Your best bet at this time of year is to depend on container-grown or balled-and-burlapped plants for landscape use.
- Plant Blue Plumbago (*Plumbago capensis*) now for season long low maintenance color. It is usually cold hardy to Zone 8 and sheltered places elsewhere. Although tolerant of sunny conditions, blue plumbago prefers a little protection from the hot afternoon sun. It is quite drought tolerant and blooms from spring till frost.
- Now is a time to thin larkspur, zinnia, cockscomb and cosmos seedlings. Plants will bloom much better if thinned to about 4" apart. Transplant or share the extras with gardening friends.

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Everyone Is A Gardner This Time Of Year

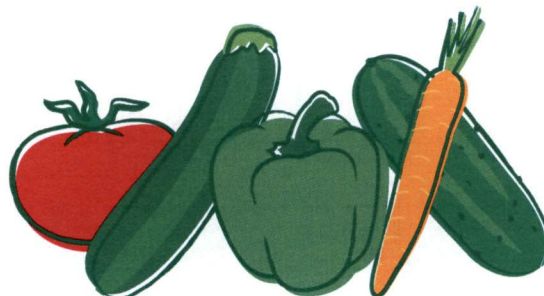
Our enthusiasm for gardening really takes off this time of year. Even Aunt Ethel, who lives in an apartment, wants to grow something green on her small patio. Most of us have been cooped up all winter and we are exploding with gardening enthusiasm! It is so easy to get carried away and overdo things, like planting 20 different varieties of tomatoes on a half-acre of land for two people to consume or plowing up the front yard to plant all those beautiful roses you have been dreaming about growing all winter. We all have a tendency to get carried away. It's human nature. It's like an all-you-can-eat buffet with a different kind of heartburn if we overdo it —weeds and regrets!

Here are some tips that should help you reign in your planting urges and have a more sustainable and enjoyable garden:

1. If you want to make additions to your landscape, start with a plan. Sketch out your existing landscape and make notes of spots where you want to replace existing plants or fill an empty space. Then make a list of plants that will work in those spots so when you go to the nursey to buy plants you will only buy what you need and have space for.
2. Vegetable gardening should start with a plan, too. Make a list of the vegetables that your family enjoys eating. If no one like eggplant, then don't grow any. Next, make a rough estimate of how much your family will consume or preserve for winter consumption. It's OK to grow a little extra for your mother-in-law and the neighbors but not for the whole block. Then stick to that amount. Now, when you order seed or shop at a nursery for plants, you won't overdo it.
3. Don't crowd the garden. If you are adding shrubs to an existing landscape, consider their mature size and space accordingly. You can fill the extra space with annuals until the shrubs reach their mature size. The same goes for the vegetable garden. Allow enough space between rows and plants for easy cultivation and harvest.
4. Be selective. Stick to the recommended varieties for your area. Trying a bunch of oddball plants that do well in California or New York is usually a waste of time and effort. Even within the state, there are some plants like blueberries and citrus that cannot be grown successfully in all areas of Texas.

Spring is a wonderful time of year to be a gardener! Just be sure to rein in some of that enthusiasm and save it for weed-pulling later!

Corby, Chris S. "Opening Lines" Texas Gardener March/April 2018



Ward County Pecan Show 2017

We had 15 entries in this year's Ward County Pecan Show, even though many pecan growers assured me the squirrels were getting most of their crop! A group of worthy Extension volunteers including Teresa Burnett, Howard Powers, Connie Witt, and Bridget Schoolcraft shelled, weighed and labeled entries on Thursday afternoon, December 7. Monte Nesbitt, Program Specialist – Pecan/Fruit/Citrus, at College Station, judged the entries Friday morning, December 8.

Winners in the Classic and New Division are Terry & Carolyn Harkey (1st place Burkett), Debbie Pomroy (2nd place Burkett), Jennifer Pomroy (3rd place Burkett), Robin Pomroy (4th place Burkett), Doug Roeber (1st place Podsednik), Debbie Pomroy (1st place San Saba Improved), Donald Bard (1st place Stuart), Connie Witt (1st place Variety Seedlings). Terry & Carolyn Harkey's Burkett was selected Grand Champion and Connie Witt won Reserve Champion with the Variety Seedling entry.

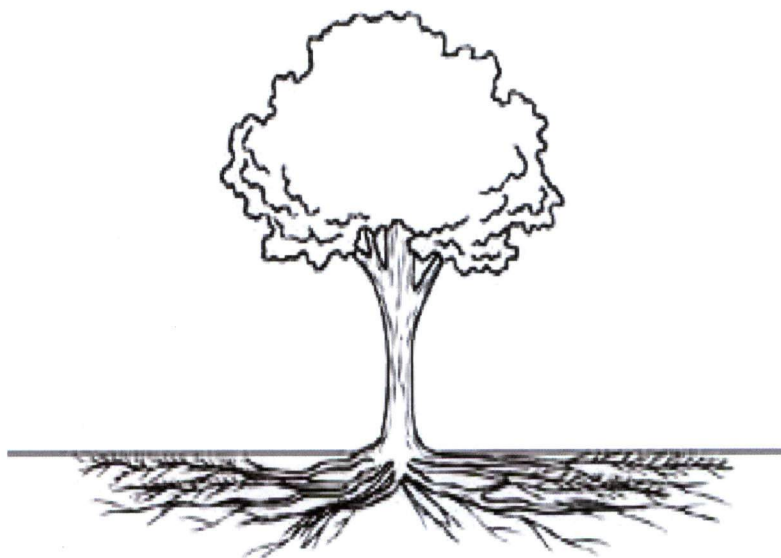
Winners in the Commercial Division include Debbie Pomroy (1st place Choctaw) (1st place Pawnee), Jeppie Wilson (1st place Western), and Carolyn Pomroy Kinsey (2nd place Western). Grand Champion in this division is Debbie Pomroy's Pawnee and Reserve Champion is the Western entered by Jeppie Wilson.

The Grand Champion in the Native Division is Ginger Pomroy.

All 1st and 2nd place entries advanced to the West Texas Regional Pecan Show on in San Angelo, TX.

And the winners are: Classic and New Division Terry & Carolyn Harkey (2nd place Burkett), Debbie Pomroy (1st place San Saba Improved), Connie Witt (2nd place Variety Seedlings)

Congratulations to these Regional Winners!



The roots of a tree extend far from the trunk and are found mostly in the upper 6 to 12 inches of soil.