

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. Audrey Hepburn

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Abigail Pritchard

CEA - FCS

Master Gardener

3600 S. Stockton, Suite J

Monahans, TX 79756

Phone: (432)943-4112

Fax: (432)943-3138

Howdy!

It is summertime in West Texas! I am happy to report the temperatures have cooled just a little, and we have had some good rain showers,. See the checklist below for some things you can do to keep the garden going till fall weather comes and I have included a few fall preparation tasks. Fall gardens are often the best in West Texas!

The Ag agent position has been posted; AgriLife Extension is seeking a worthy candidate. If you know someone with an agriculture degree and a sincere desire to live & work in Ward County, encourage them to apply.

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*

The following tips are excerpted from the Activity Checklist in the July/August 2018 issue of Texas Gardener Magazine

July Vegetables & Herbs

Many of the vegetables that performed well in spring and early summer are shutting down now that things have really heated up outside. Just because it is hot, however doesn't mean that we can't keep growing vegetables. There are a number of crops that can take the heat and still perform well if provided adequate soil moisture and some mulch to deter weed competition.

Okra does great in the summer. You can keep planting it on through the summer and it will produce very well. Sweet potatoes are very fond of our hot southern summers and can still be planted early this month with time to produce (in most of the state) before the first frost shuts things down. Summer greens for planting now include Malabar, amaranth, Molokai, purslane ('Goldgelber') or even sweet potato vines (yes they are edible).

Peppers and eggplant are still going strong in the heat and will benefit from a light fertilization if you haven't done so in the past few weeks.

Maintain a thick blanket of mulch over the soil surface. This helps moderate soil temperature near the surface, holds in some moisture and deters weeds; and who wants to be weeding when it is 100 degrees outside?

Water with a good soaking once or twice a week. The goal is to water infrequently but often enough to maintain moderately moist soil.



Trees, Shrubs & Vines

Hot weather means we may need to be supplementing our new trees and shrubs with irrigation. New trees need frequent watering because their root system is still limited and rather confined. The first summer is a tough one for newly planted woody ornamentals. They are still establishing a root system and the combination of intense heat and a lack of soil moisture can be deadly.

Lawns & Groundcovers

Water turf deeply but infrequently. The goal is to wet the soil profile to a depth of about 6 inches or more once a week during the summer in hot-sun locations. This will take about an inch of irrigation applied in a cycle-and-soak method where you water until just prior to runoff and then turn off the system for an hour to allow to soak in. Then water again, repeating this cycle until you have applied an inch. In the shade, turf will use much less water.

Fertilizing shouldn't be necessary in the summer, and when you return the clippings they decompose and contribute nutrients to the soil. The more often you mow the denser and more attractive your lawn will be. Dense turf chokes out most of the weed competition.

August Vegetables

It may be hard to believe when you're standing outside and the temps are in the triple digits, but fall gardening season is arriving this month in Texas! Depending on your area of the state, planting season for warm-season crops (like green beans, lima beans, squash, potatoes, and cucumbers) will begin arriving in early to late August. The goal is to get them going now so that when the heat breaks in a couple of months they will be entering their harvest season.

Start a day or two prior to planting by watering the soil well to soak it several inches deep. This pre-plant irrigation is important for putting a bank account of moisture down into the soil to supply the developing roots. On planting day set out your seed at the proper depth and water again to moisten the seed and soil surface. Some gardeners soak their seed overnight prior to planting to give it a head start.. It can also be helpful to place some type of shading material over the row to shield the seeds from the blistering hot sun for a week or two until they are sprouted and established. As an alternative, you can start seeds of squash and cucumbers, or cut seed pieces of potatoes, in transplant pots for moving out into the garden once they are up and growing well.

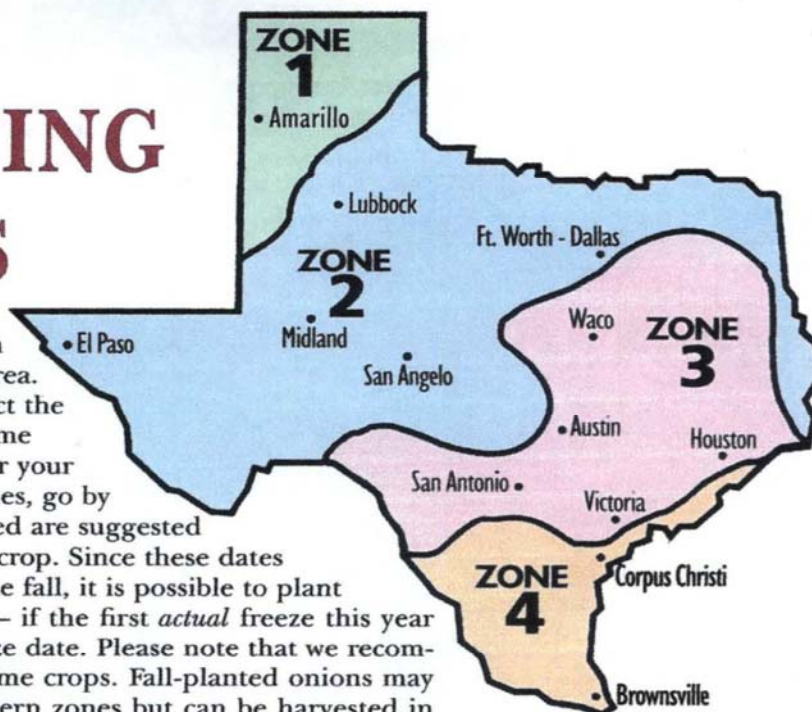
Lawns & Groundcovers

Cinch bugs have their larger, more damaging generation in late summer. These insects tend to start out in sunny areas adjacent to a curb, sidewalk, or driveway. They suck the juices out of the grass so symptoms appear a lot like drought damage. You can part the turf in an area between healthy and dead grass and see these tiny pests scurrying around. Make treatments to the affected area, also extending a little further out into the healthy grass for best results.

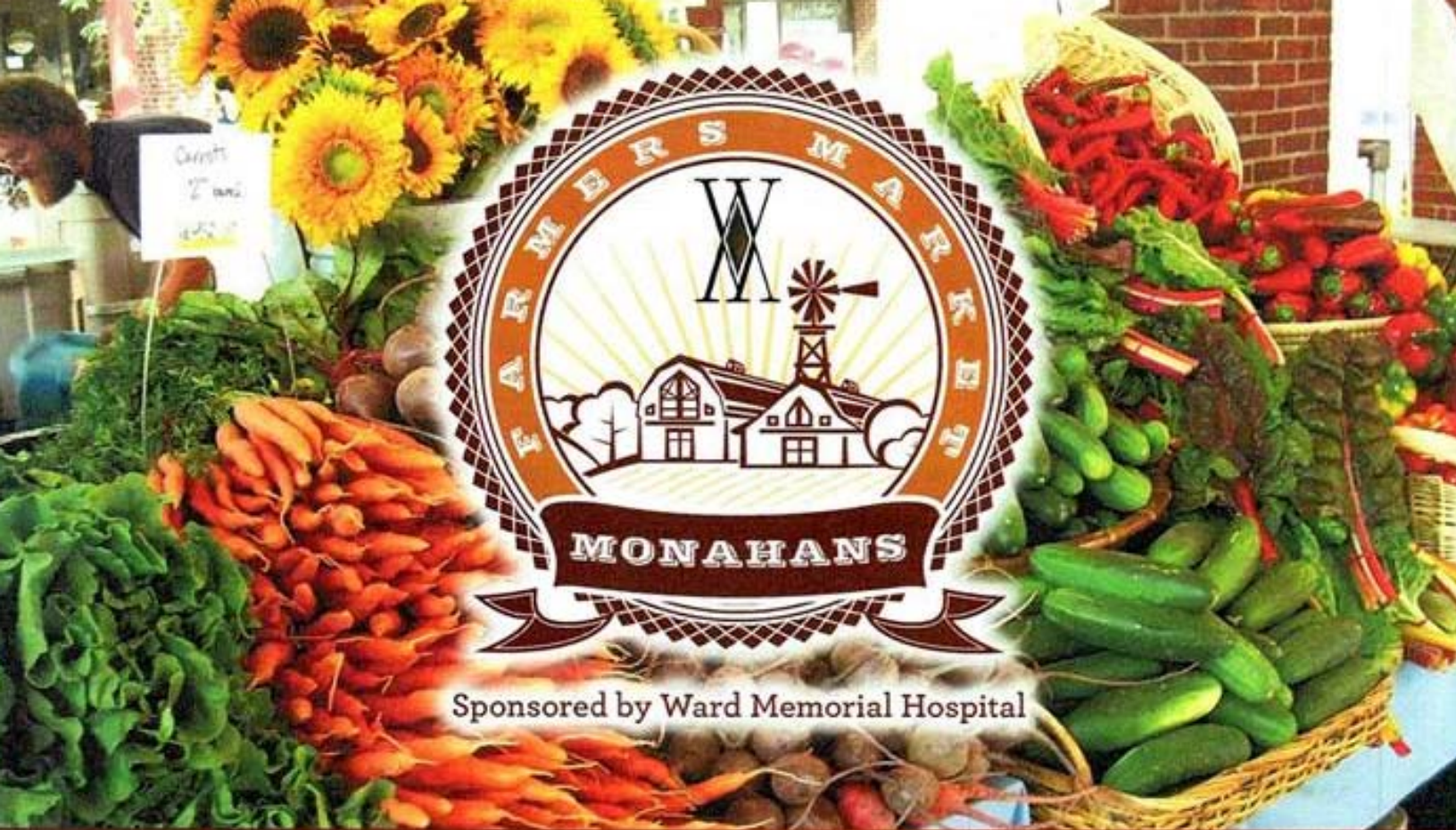
The taller you set your mower, the deeper your turf's root system will be. Keep the mower blade sharp for cleaner cuts and a more attractive lawn.

TEXAS GARDENER'S FALL PLANTING GUIDELINES

Use this guide to determine the optimum planting dates for a fall garden in your area. Find your location on the zone map, select the vegetables you want to plant and then come across to the planting dates directly under your zone. If you live on the border of two zones, go by the earliest planting dates. The dates listed are suggested dates on which you can safely plant each crop. Since these dates are based on the first average freeze in the fall, it is possible to plant after these dates and still be successful — if the first *actual* freeze this year happens to be later than the *average* freeze date. Please note that we recommend using plants instead of seed for some crops. Fall-planted onions may not produce full-size onions in the northern zones but can be harvested in immature size depending on the weather.



Vegetable	Seed/plants per 25 feet	Yield per 25 feet	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
Beans, Snap Bush	1/8 lb.	5-7 lbs. (shelled)	July 15	August 1	September 1	September 10
Beans, Lima Bush	1/8 lb.	5-7 lbs. (shelled)	July 15	July 25	August 20	September 1
Beets	1/4 oz.	15-25 lbs.	August 15	September 1	October 15	November 1
Broccoli	8-12 plants	10-15 lbs.	August 15	September 1	October 1	November 1
Brussels Sprouts	8-12 plants	15-20 lbs.	July 15	August 1	September 1	October 1
Cabbage	8-12 plants	12-20 heads	August 15	September 1	October 1	November 1
Carrots	1/8 oz.	150 carrots	July 15	August 15	November 10	November 20
Cauliflower	8-10 plants	25 lbs.	August 15	September 1	October 1	November 1
Chard, Swiss	1/2 oz.	12-20 lbs.	August 1	August 15	October 1	October 20
Collards	1/6 oz.	25-37 lbs.	August 1	August 15	October 10	October 20
Corn, Sweet	1-1 1/2 oz.	25-50 ears	July 1	August 10	August 20	September 10
Cucumber	1/8 oz.	35-40 cukes	July 15	August 1	September 1	September 10
Eggplant	1/32 oz.	25-50 eggplants	July 1	June 15	July 1	July 10
Kohlrabi	1/16 oz.	15-20 lbs.	August 15	September 1	September 10	October 1
Leaf Lettuce	1/16 oz.	12-25 lbs.	September 1	September 15	October 10	November 1
Mustard	1/16 oz.	10-25 lbs.	September 1	October 1	November 1	December 1
Onion (plant)	1 bundle	25 lbs.	not recommended	October 15 or when available (Zones 2, 3, 4)		
Peas, Southern	1/2 lb.	25 lbs. (shelled)	June 15	July 1	August 1	August 15
Pepper	1/32 oz.	100 peppers	June 1	June 15	July 1	July 15
Potato	1 1/2-2 1/2 lbs.	38 lbs.	not recommended	August 1	September 1	October 1
Pumpkin	1/8 oz.	3-7 pumpkins	June 1	July 1	August 1	August 10
Radish	1/4 oz.	200-300 radishes	September 1	October 1	November 25	December 1
Spinach	1/4 oz.	12-25 lbs.	August 15	September 1	November 15	December 1
Squash, Summer	1/4 oz.	17-25 lbs.	August 1	August 15	September 10	October 1
Squash, Winter	1/8 oz.	25 lbs.	June 15	July 1	August 10	September 1
Tomato	7-9 plants	50-90 lbs.	July 1	July 15	July 25	July 25
Turnip	1/8 oz.	12 lbs., 350 roots	September 1	October 15	November 1	December 1



Farm-Fresh Foods – Locally Grown, Locally Made

Monahans Farmers Market

Fresh Produce | Locally Produced Foods | Music | Fun for the Family

June 16, July 21, August 18 and September 15

9 a.m. to noon

Hill Park (on the corner of 5th and S. Allen)

Monahans, TX

Nothing beats the taste of fresh foods straight from the source. Join us on the third Saturday of June, July, August and September for the Monahans Farmers Market. You and your family can find the freshest and most delicious foods from farmers and producers right here in our region.

Sponsored by Ward Memorial Hospital and the
Monahans Chamber of Commerce



WARD MEMORIAL

HOSPITAL *Neighbors helping Neighbors*