

Urban Dirt

Trees!

Gardening Events and Information for Texans

Tree Planting Tips

by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

Fall is here and while gardeners will plant primarily in January through March there are advantages for planting trees from September through December. Roots grow when the soil temperature is 40 degrees or higher and in Texas we can have mild winters. Fall weather is ideal for planting burlapped and balled shrubs and trees but bare root plants need to be planted in late winter. Have a definite plan when purchasing trees since they have a long life span. For example, the average lifespan for citrus trees can be approximately 30 years. Even shrubs can last up to ten years. Oaks and pecans can live more than 100 years. Remember - a tree can last a lifetime, or several lifetimes depending on the variety.

Begin by selecting a tree appropriate for your growing zone. If you are not sure about your zone, refer to a USDA Hardiness Zone guide. Do not assume that the store where you purchase your tree has trees appropriate for your area. Many large garden centers and stores have buyers that purchase plants/trees in bulk for the entire country. A tree that may do well in Maine (growing zone 5) probably won't do well here in our Gulf coast area (growing zone 9a-9b). Research the growing areas for any trees or plants before you buy. Don't forget to check out the growth requirements also. How big does the tree get? Is the tree deciduous (a plant that sheds its leaves, usually in winter)? Is it an understory tree? An understory tree does best growing in the shade of another tree or the canopy of a forest. Does it prefer full sun or shade? One word of caution- full sun does not necessarily

mean the blistering Texas heat on the south side of your property. Yes, I learned this the hard way.

After you have purchased your tree, decide where you will place it. Use the mature tree size as your guide. If the tree is planted too close to your home, it can damage the foundation of your house. In our area, another factor to consider is the weather. Hurricanes, excessive flooding and wind storms can send a tree



toppling into your home. Does the tree drop its crop? Acorns, pecans, berries, etc. can be problematic. I have good friends who chopped down a beautiful prolific mulberry tree. It was planted too close to a driveway. Not only did it start to buckle the concrete but the mulberries stained the driveway. Their children stepped on

Tree planted too close to a building

Photo courtesy <https://www.pinterest.co.kr>

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Upcoming Events

October 2019

Green Thumb Gardening Series - Trees: Planting and Care (includes fruit trees)

Oct. 10, Barbara Bush Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 15, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 17, Freeman Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 19, Maude Smith Marks Library, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Open Garden Day

Oct. 15, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Weekley Community Center, **Registration required by Sunday, Oct. 13th to: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com.** Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX 77433

Oct. 21, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m., Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston, 77034 *Plants for sale in the greenhouse.*

Master Gardener Lecture Series

Oct. 1, First Tuesday 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. *Composting for Personal Gain* by Carlos Domenech. Arrive as early as 11:00 a.m.

Bring a packed lunch to picnic and tour the gardens. Beverages and additional snacks will be provided. Genoa Friendship Gardens Education Center, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston, 77034

Oct. 10, GFG Second Thursday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. *Planting Fruit Trees* by Herman Auer, Galveston Master Gardener. Genoa Friendship Gardens Education Center, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston, 77034

Women in Agriculture Conference

Oct. 4, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. University of Houston, Downtown, New Science and Technology Bldg., 315 N. Main St., Houston

Rainwater Harvesting Class

Oct. 14, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. \$10 - Register by October 11. Enrollment limited to first 30 participants - https://rainwater_harvesting.eventbrite.com Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX 77433

Texas Fruit Conference

Oct. 28 & 29, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/>

New Braunfels Civic Convention Center., 375 S Castell Ave, New Braunfels, TX 78130

November 2019

Master Gardener Lecture Series

Nov. 5, First Tuesday 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Speaker - *All about Salvia's* by Phoebe Lake.

Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd, Houston, 77055

Open Garden Day

Nov. - TBA, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Weekley Community Center, **Registration required to: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com.**

Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX 77433

Houston Urban Tree Conference

Nov. 15, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., \$45.00 Register: <https://hutc2019.eventbrite.com> Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX 77433

Have Garden Questions?

Email your questions and photos to: phone hcmga@gmail.com or

Call us Monday – Friday 9:00 am to Noon at 713-274-0950

Visit txmg.org or contact the Harris County Extension Office, 713-274-0950, coordinator.harrishort@gmail.com for information.



It's that time of year!

As you all know, we are in hurricane season until November 30th. Hopefully, storms will bypass our area this year. But, to make sure you and your families are prepared for an event, check out <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php>.

Herb of the Month - Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*)

by Karen McGowan, Master Gardener

Sometimes in researching for and writing the herb article, I learn interesting facts in no way related to the garden. This month's featured herb, valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), apparently lends its name to titles of import in the genre of science fiction. I am sure there must be an entire trail of reasoning behind this factoid that might be interesting, but today we will stick to the main garden path and avoid this rabbit trail.

Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), a member of the Valeriana-ceae family, is a perennial plant native to Europe and Asia, and naturalized in North America. The genus Valerian includes over 250 species, but *V. officinalis* is the species most often used in the United States and Europe. A common name for this hardy perennial is "garden heliotrope". It is thought that the name valerian may have come from the Latin *valere* meaning "to be strong" or "to be in good health." Chaucer referenced the herb, calling it "setewale".

Valerian's strong odor appeals to earthworms, intoxicates cats, and attracts rats (yikes!). According to legend, the Pied Piper of



Hamelin, with the assistance of the odorous valerian root, lured the town's rats to the river to drown. Some Asian species of valerian have a more pleasant aroma and may

have included spikenard (the Biblical name for valerian), which was known as a perfume from the East.

The herb has a lengthy use associated with treatment of various conditions, including anxiety, headaches, and heart palpitations, dating back to at least ancient Greek and Rome. Hippocrates documented its therapeutic uses, and Galen in the 2nd century prescribed its use for insomnia. In the early 19th century, valerian's

References:

<https://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/Valerian-HealthProfessional/>
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/plants-and-animals/plants/plants/valerian-emperor>
<https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/VASI.pdf>



effects were widely considered the cause of the ailments it had in prior centuries been used to treat; however, due to England's air raids during World War II it was prescribed once more, as a treatment for the stress related to these.

Valerian grows in lime-rich soil near streams, or in damp, low meadows where it may reach a height of five feet tall. It is also found in drier environments at higher elevations, where it grows to just two feet tall. The herb will thrive in any average, well-drained soil, in full sun to partial afternoon shade. Valerian is extremely frost-tolerant; it will die back in harsh winters and reemerge in the spring. Good planting companions include echinacea, catnip, agastache and dill; valerian is often planted with low, mound-forming herbs and flowers. When harvesting, keep in mind that roots harvested from drier environments may be more medicinally potent. Dig roots in fall or early spring and dry outdoors, as they release an unpleasant smell as they dry. Store in an airtight container, but be aware that fresh root will produce the highest quality of medicinal extract. Dried valerian roots are used to make a bedtime tea that promotes sleep and are also much beloved by cats and dogs! Propagation by seed is preferred; however, limited vegetative propagation, by cutting large rhizomes with several growing crown points, has also been proven successful. Seed propagation is preferred to avoid the need for digging up rhizomes from their native sites.

Valerian has been used as a medicinal herb for more than a thousand years, especially for mild cases of insomnia. Research shows that proper use of valerian promotes sleep, reduces night

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Plant of the Month - Purple Chinese Hat, Tahitian Hat, Parasol Flower (*Karomia tettensis*, *Homskioldia tettensis*)

Ka-RO-mee-uh – a genus of plants native to eastern and southern Africa, Madagascar, and Vietnam¹
tettensis – Tete, a province in Mozambique where Sir John Kirk collected plant specimens²

by Beth Braun, Master Gardener

The summer 2019 Master Gardeners interns' class was in full swing in the meeting room behind Plants for All Seasons, and co-workers Georgia Lau and Beverly DeMoss and I were busy selling Master Gardener paraphernalia like t-shirts, caps and garden tools. During lulls, my eyes were pulled back to the unusual flowering plant outside the window and the bumblebee party going on around it. It was vaguely familiar but its identity was buried in the recesses of my brain. It was Extension Agent Skip Richter who identified it: Chinese Hat. Purple Chinese Hat, to be exact.

A scholarly entry in Wikipedia says it's native to the northern parts of South Africa, Swaziland and north into tropical Africa and Madagascar.³ You might see a resemblance between the flower and the traditional Chinese straw hat, and even a parasol. But what explains its other common name, Tahitian Hat? To my eyes the flower looks nothing like traditional Tahitian headdresses. Tahiti is an island in the remote South Pacific, nowhere near the African Continent. Could there be a cultural connection? Tahiti and Madagascar were both colonized by France, so maybe the Tahitian Hat is one of the many introduced tropical plants in Tahiti. But does it even grow there? Such is the fun and frustration of plant research, and I didn't get to the bottom of that question.

Let's consider instead what this plant has to offer. It's popular with bees, as noted earlier. Some gardeners report hummingbirds feeding from it. The showy mauve "hat" or "parasol" is the calyx/sepal of the flower, while the deep blue or violet tubular part is the corolla, or petals. The flowers grow in 6" – 8" spires, and

hold on for weeks during its spring-to-fall blooming season. One writer describes the flowers as "perched butterflies ready for flight".

Zones 9 – 11 are ideal for this tender tropical, and it tolerates our humidity too. It prefers sun to part sun, and is considered drought tolerant but performs best with regular watering and a layer of mulch during the hottest months. It's reported to not like wet feet, so be careful not to plant where water collects or to overwater.

The Purple Chinese Hat is a flexible plant that can be shaped to suit your needs and taste. It can be a sprawling specimen plant, 8 – 10 ft. tall or more, or it can be used as a screen or hedge if planted in multiples. It can also be shaped to grow as an attractive small tree. To maintain a bushier growth, cut it back hard in early spring. Where space is limited or in colder zones, it can be container grown.

It's surprising that this lovely plant isn't seen more at nurseries and in landscapes. If you know of a specimen and want to try your hand at propagation, first get permission from the owner and try simple or air layering. Instructions for both methods can be found online.



¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karomia>

² https://www.malawiflora.com/speciesdata/species.php?species_id=120420

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karomia_speciosa

Tree Planting Tips, *cont'd from pg. 1*

the berries before entering the house. Yes, mulberry stains are nearly impossible to remove.

Before digging in Texas call 811. You do not want to puncture any gas lines, water lines, electrical lines and phone lines, etc. Dig a hole that is the correct size for your tree. The hole should be as deep as the root ball and twice as wide. Your tree's roots need room to spread or they may strangle themselves. This is known as girdling root. Improper mulching can also cause root girdling. The tree should be planted just above the surrounding soil since settling will occur. Always handle it by the root ball. When you backfill the hole, use the soil you removed from the hole. Water it well to eliminate air pockets. To avoid overwatering, water every 7-10 days. Don't fertilize until early spring. Apply mulch when you are through but keep mulch away from the trunk of the tree. Do not use colored or rubber mulch.

With planning, research, perseverance and a little luck, your tree should reach its full potential. Check the hcmga.tamu.edu website to see if an October sale is scheduled. The Galveston County Master Gardeners have a sale scheduled on October 12, 2019. Check their website at https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/annual_events/Plant_Sales/2019_Fall_Sale/index.htm. They will have citrus and fruit trees along with vegetables, bulbs and perennials suitable for our area.



Girdling root on dwarf Alberta spruce (Picea glauca 'Conica') caused by being in a container too long.

Photo courtesy <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>

Herb of the Month - Valerian, *cont'd from pg. 3*

awakenings, and increases dream recall in most people. Historically, valerian has been highly regarded as a tranquilizer that acts without narcotic effects. Ongoing research relates to valerian's possible use to effectively and safely treat a wide range of medical issues.

Whether you choose to give valerian a place in your garden or not, this herb is definitely worth getting to know better!

Composting notes from Mother Nature... through her assistant, Carlos

by Carlos Domenech, Master Gardener

Photos by Carlos Domenech

If you could only use one product to improve the health of your garden, what would that product be? I believe that every Master Gardener should be able to answer that question without any hesitation, but in case you missed it, there is this new product (only been available since around the time of Creation), called COMPOST.

Compost can do a lot of good things for your garden, for example:

- Improves soil structure (how soil particles are organized) creating better water and air penetration (which promotes deeper roots) and better drainage (sandy soil or clay soil)
- Improves the soil nutritional value - helps the soil hold on to nutrients and water that you add. Also, helps in the processes that release and make available nutrients that are already in the soil.
- Provides Nutrients - a great source of micronutrients which are normally absent in chemical fertilizers and provides macro nutrients in smaller quantities,
- Is a pH buffer - if the pH is low or high, compost will bring soil closer to the ideal pH of 6.5-7, naturally and gradually.
- It replenishes and promotes the microbes in your soil, **THE SOIL IS ALIVE!**
- Helps turfgrass battle bad fungal attacks without disturbing beneficial fungi like mycohryza. When Brown Patch knocks at your door you'll be prepared with this new weapon.

I grow all my seeds in my compost. You can make compost tea and spray plants with it. Enriching your potting soil, you can use as much mulch as you like. And, of course compost can be bagged.

Take it to your social activities as a present instead of gift cards or bottles of wine.

Please always remember that the best compost ever is the one you make at home! And, we can help you make your own.

I am not going to say that the addition of compost (organic matter) to your soil is going to fix every problem, but it is a great amendment that will improve the soil overall health condition. Instead of fungicides, insecticides, pre-emergent herbicides, post-emergent herbicides, fertilizers and a million other products you think your yard needs, maybe organic matter is what you *really* need.

The compost demonstration garden at Genoa Friendship Gardens is open. We work there on Mondays and Wednesdays. If you are interested in a hands-on experience working with compost just come over!



Mixture of carbon-rich (brown material) and nitrogen-rich (green material) grassy components



Compost mix of brown and green materials with microbes, air and water; eight to sixteen weeks "cooking time"



Mulch



Finished compost

Way Up North in Zone 4

by Douglas and Kathryn McLeod, Master Gardeners

Photos by Kathryn McLeod

Never ones to miss a botanical garden, on our recent trip to Alaska, we visited the Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage. A free shuttle bus from downtown Anchorage was even available.

The gardens were opened in 1993 and occupy about 110 acres. Much of the land is forest. Trails connect the various gardens.

Anyone heading to Anchorage should visit their website, <https://www.alaskabg.org/> (garden@alaskabg.org). The highlights to us were the blue poppies and, of course, the peonies.

And if you go and have any questions, be sure to ask the experts.



Alaska Master Gardeners manning their table!



Blue poppies



Peonies



Rainwater Harvesting Class

Rainwater is the best water for your plants!



When: Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Weekley Community Center
8440 Greenhouse Rd
Cypress, TX 77433

Cost: \$10
Please register by October 11th.



Enrollment is limited to the first 30 participants.

**Learn about capturing, diverting and storing rainwater,
and how to build your own rain barrel!**

https://rainwater_harvesting.eventbrite.com

For more information on this program please contact Susan Hubert (ext #3):
susan.hubert@ag.tamu.edu or (713) 274-0950

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Congratulations to the 2019 New Graduates!

by Brandi Keller, Master Gardener

On September 10th, we welcomed 22 new Certified Texas Master Gardeners to our county.

When members of the community sign up for the Volunteer Training Course, they understand the class will be twelve weeks long and that they have a commitment to complete 60 service hours within one year. What they don't know is how, exactly, they will fit in with our various committees, projects and fellow volunteers. As it turns out, this group of graduating Master Gardeners has made quite an impact around the program in areas such as Cylinder Gardening, Ask a Master Gardener, Speaker's Bureau, Genoa Friendship Gardens, and more. In addition, a few volunteers have already taken on leadership roles.

Thank you, Class of 2018, for your willingness to learn, your proven capability to work as part of a team and your passion and interest for horticulture. You are valued AgriLife Extension Volunteers and HCMGA members. We hope you continue to make friendships along the path of learning and sharing!

Class of 2018 Graduates

GERI ADLER
 LISA BEDFORD
 OLIVIA BEDFORD
 VICKI BROOKS
 BRAD COBURN
 FATMA DOKUMACI OZGEL
 DAVID GASKIN
 MICHELLE GETZ
 SANJEEVI GUNARATHNA
 ALICIA HARRIS
 REBECCA HUDMAN
 KIM KAUB
 LAKSHMI KORIPALLI
 MARCIA LONG
 GABRIELLE MATRINGE
 TONY RUPPE
 MARY SCOTT
 KAREN SHOOK
 LEE TALLEY
 CIG VERGASON
 DON TYLER
 SUZANNE TYLER



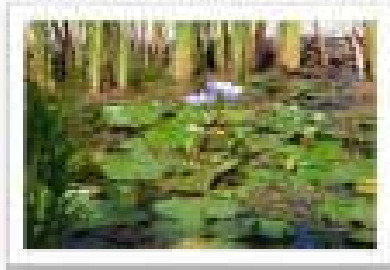

Harris County Master Gardener Class of 2018

Photo by Carolyn Boyd

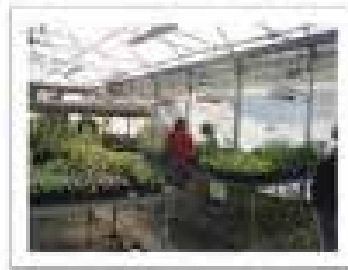
Open Garden Days at Genoa Friendship Gardens



The Perennial Trial



The Water Garden



The Greenhouse

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Harris County Master Gardeners invite you to join us for

Open Garden Days

on the 3rd Monday of the month, March through October, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Admission to the Exhibit Gardens is free, and register at the Welcome Table to receive additional monthly notices for children and family events.

The Genoa Friendship Gardens

is located at
1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road
Houston, Texas 77034

To schedule a special event for your garden club, school or professional organization please contact us to make your arrangements.

- Tour the variety of exhibits to inspire you with vegetable, perennial, rose, tropical and native gardens.
- Meet and talk with a Master Gardener about planting citrus, fruit or berries for your home orchard.
- Contemplate the joy in the Serenity Garden and catch a view of the Water Garden.
- Don't leave the GFG until you have shopped the Greenhouse where seasonal herbs, vegetables and perennials are available for sale until September.

2019 Monthly Open Garden Days & Special Events

February 23	Fruit Tree Sale	June 17	Open Garden Day
March 18	Open Garden Day	July 15	Open Garden Day
March 30	Spring Plant Sale	August 19	Open Garden Day
April 15	Open Garden Day	September 16	Open Garden Day
May 20	Open Garden Day	October 21	Open Garden Day

Second Chance Sale bargains can be found in the Greenhouse after our February and March plant sales.

Open Garden Days at The Weekley Community Center

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Harris County Master Gardeners
invite you to join us for

Open Garden Days

one Tuesday each month, January through November, 10:00 –11:00 a.m.

Open Garden Day Activities

are located at 8440 Greenhouse Road, Houston, Texas 77433

For information about upcoming topics, dates and registration, please email us at ogd.harrishort@gmail.com. Registration is required before each program.

Children and their parents looking for hands-on ways to learn, create, and have fun inspire our Open Garden Day volunteers to offer programs that do just that.

This FREE monthly children’s event includes a variety of activities:

- Planting seeds, veggies or ornamentals into pots so children can continue to grow them at home.
- Creating a “nature theme” craft project with materials that are provided.
- 30-40 minute hands-on lesson that focuses on a single topic each month.

Previous lessons have included making a worm farm, putting together a compost bin, learning about the importance of butterflies, and making a feeder to attract pollinators.

Past projects



Seed Pod mobile



Fantasy Garden



Recycled soda bottle

2019 Monthly Open Garden Days

February 26	<i>Registration required by Sun. Feb. 24</i>	July (TBD)	<i>Registration required</i>
March 26	<i>Registration required by Sun. Mar. 24.</i>	August 27	<i>Registration required by Sun. Aug. 25</i>
April 16	<i>Registration required by Sat. Apr. 13</i>	Sept. 24	<i>Registration required by Sun. Sept. 22</i>
May 28	<i>Registration required by Sun. May 26</i>	October 15	<i>Registration required by Sun. Oct. 13</i>
June 25	<i>Registration required by Sat. June 22</i>	November and December	<i>dates are TBA at this time.</i>

Ask a Master Gardener

Ask a Master Gardener is a volunteer program offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Volunteers staff booths and tables to provide free, research-based horticulture education to the public throughout Harris County.

In October we are going to be in the following locations!

- Oct. 5** **Urban Harvest** - *1st Saturday*, 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
3401 Westheimer Rd. (corner of Buffalo Spdwy. & Westheimer), Houston
- Garden Oaks/Heights** - *1st Saturday*, 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at The Farmstand,
938 Wakefield, Houston
- Oct. 12** **Tomball** - *2nd Saturday*, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 205 W. Main Street, Tomball
- Oct. 13** **Bridgeland** - *2nd Sunday*, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at 16902 Bridgeland Lakes Pkwy,
Cypress
- Oct. 17** **Westchase** - *3rd Thursday*, 3 - 7 p.m. at 10503 Westheimer Rd., Houston
- Oct. 26** **Memorial Villages** - *4th Saturday*, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 10840 Beinhorn Rd.,
Houston
- Oct. 27** **Towne Lake** - *4th Sunday*, 2:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. at 9955 Barker Cypress Rd.,
Cypress

*Visit the Harris County Master Gardeners
Facebook page for event details!*

www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

in partnership with

Hermann Park Conservancy

are pleased to present

Master Gardeners in the City at McGovern Centennial Gardens

Saturday, October 12th & 26th

McGovern Centennial Gardens at Hermann Park

1500 Hermann Drive

Houston, Texas 77004

Events include garden tours and children's activities.

These educational programs are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.



HOUSTON URBAN TREE CONFERENCE

Friday, November 15, 2019
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Weekley Community Center | 8440 Greenhouse Rd
Cypress, TX 77433

Agenda

- *Emerald Ash Borer - Coming to a City Near You*
Matt Weaver, Texas A&M Forest Service – Harris County, Urban & Community Forestry
- *Scanning the Horizon for the Future of Arboriculture*
Dr. Andy Hines, University of Houston, Foresight Graduate Program Coordinator
- *Using Tree Growth Regulators to Reduce Pruning Costs*
Dr. Todd Watson, ISA Board-Certified Master Arborist
- *Aquaholics Anonymous: How to Cope with Your Landscape's Drinking Problem*
Dr. Todd Watson, ISA Board-Certified Master Arborist
- *Greening the Houston Region - Partnerships and Projects that Support the Urban Forest*
Ethan Beeson, TXDOT, Transportation Landscape Architect
Justin Bower, HGAC, Senior Planner-Community & Environmental Planning
Nic Griffin, Harris County Flood Control District, Forester

Registration
\$45.00



The Houston Urban Tree Conference is a partnership between Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Houston Area Urban Forestry Council (HAUFC) and ISA-TX.

Register at
<https://hutc2019.eventbrite.com>

ISA CEUs (Pending)
TNLA CEUs (Pending)

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperation.



PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program



**Cost:
Free**

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

**SEATING IS
LIMITED**

Topics Include:

Solar panel use, Backyard chickens, Orchards, Value-Added Gardening, Rainwater harvesting, Small scale farming and MORE...

Date & Time:

Oct. 4, 2019. 8:30 am-3:30 pm

Register by OCT 1, 2019:

Eventbrite:

<https://2019wiag.eventbrite.com>

Phone or Email:

Susan Hubert (Secretary)

Phone: 713-274-0950

Susan.Hubert@ag.tamu.edu


Location:

U OF H - DOWNTOWN
NEW SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

**315 N. MAIN ST.
HOUSTON, TX**

Gardening Tools

This chart is a handy guide for knowing the best times to plant in Harris County.

		Vegetable Garden Planting Dates for Harris County											Texas Agrilife Extension Service Harris County Office 713-274-0950 https://harris.agrilife.org/hort/		
Planting times are for seeds unless otherwise noted		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
		Ideal Planting Time (Dark Green) Marginal Planting Time (Light Green)													
Artichoke	Dormant Crowns														
Asparagus (dormant crowns)															
Beans - Snap & Lima (Butterbean)				Snap&Lima					Snap						
Beets															
Broccoli (transplants)															
Brussels Sprouts (transplants)															
Cabbage (transplants)															
Cabbage - Chinese (transplants)															
Carrots															
Cauliflower (transplants)															
Chard, Swiss															
Collards (transplants)															
Corn															
Cucumbers															
Eggplant (transplants)															
Garlic															
Kale (transplants)															
Kohlrabi (transplants)															
Leeks	Transplants														
Lettuce - also Arugula, Mache, Sorrel															
Melon - Cantaloupe, Honeydew															
Mustard															
Okra															
Onion - bulbing	Transplants														
Onion - multiplying/bunching															
Peas - English & Snap															
Peas - Southern															
Pepper (transplants)															
Potato - Irish (cut pieces)															
Potato - Sweet (slips)															
Pumpkin															
Radish															
Spinach															
Squash - Summer															
Squash - Winter															
Tomato															
Turnips															
Summer Greens - Malabar, Amaranth															
Watermelon															

Average Last Freeze Dates (Hobby 2/8, Bush 3/1) ↑ ↑ Average First Freeze Dates (Bush 11/30, Hobby 12/20) ↑ ↑
 Plants grown over winter may require protection during freezing weather. Seeds and transplants started in the heat of summer will benefit from shading during establishment.

Download the
 Vegetable Garden
 Planting Guide here!

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION SERVICE
3033 BEAR CREEK DR.
HOUSTON, TX 77084
713-274-0950

harris.agrilife.org/program-areas/hort/

hcmga.tamu.edu

Follow Us On Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

The Harris County Master Gardeners as well as Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Harris County Horticulture are actively participating on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram offering tips, lists, news and plant advice almost daily. The best part, instead of locating planting guides or insect documents, and sale dates for individuals, you can add the HCMG site to your account and easily share information with others. This is a definitely a timesaver for these busy garden days and helps promote our organization.



www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners

www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyHorticulture



<https://twitter.com/pharrishort>



<https://www.instagram.com/harriscountymastergardeners>



Green Thumb Gardening Series

Trees: Planting and Care (includes fruit trees)

October 10

Barbara Bush Library

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

October 17

Freeman Branch Library

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

October 15

Spring Branch Memorial Library

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

October 19

Maude Smith Marks Library

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.