

Urban Dirt

Soils and
Composting issue

Gardening Events and Information for Texans

The Good Earth

Article by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

Earth steward. That's how I like to think of myself. As an earth steward, I have an obligation to do my part in nourishing and maintaining the land I choose to accept responsibility for. It's so much more than digging a hole and dumping a plant in it. Dirt is the information a tabloid can gather on you and publish. Soil, however, is another matter. According to Stephen Andrews, a soil scientist at the University of California, Berkley, one teaspoon of forest soil can have 10 billion bacteria! Bad soil can result from many poor practices. Compaction, the excessive use of chemicals, adding the wrong kind or amount of amendments, too much tilling- these are the types of errors a home gardener can make.

The first favor you can do for your garden is to have your soil tested. Not the five dollar test from a discount store, collect a sample properly and send it to an extension office. The price for a home sample test can range from \$12 for a basic soil test to \$62 for a comprehensive test. Texas A&M soil submission forms can be found online at <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/webpages/forms.html>. Make sure the form you submit has an 18 in the top right hand corner. That is a current form with correct pricing for this year. Follow the instructions to submit your home garden sample.

Here in the Gulf Coast area we have gumbo soil. We can also have drainage problems due to overdevelopment or low elevation. In order for your plants to thrive, raised beds or plants in pots are recommended. Low elevation is the problem I have. I am at the low end of the block. You can conduct a simple percolation test at home to see how quickly your water drains. YouTube has a tutorial at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6VV6OU3ssA>.



Poor urban soil

Photo source MAPPS/WCSS

Good soil should be loose, hold water well yet also drain well and have aeration. Improving your soil will not occur overnight. It may take time, but the end results will be worth it. Your plants will thrive to their full potential if they are placed in a good growing medium. Remember- in many urban and suburban areas the native topsoil has most likely been removed. There are steps you can take to remedy and prepare your soil properly.

Improve soil tilth - factors that affect your soil tilth are the moisture content, the amount of aeration, the presence or absence of aggregated soil particles and the speed of water drainage and infiltration. It can change quickly. It can be improved by adding organic matter. A top dressing of compost in the spring can do wonders for your landscape. Compost is a great source of

cont'd on pg.6

Upcoming Events

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, in Bear Creek Park, will be permanently relocating in the future due to the flooding from Hurricane Harvey. We will provide an update on a new location soon.

Our satellite location, Genoa Friendship Gardens, is operating as normal. Visit the Demonstration Gardens on Open Garden Days at 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road, Houston 77034.

April 2018

Lecture Series

Apr. 12, P2 Second Thursday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Speaker: Jason Naivar, Forest Ranger with Jesse Jones Park & Nature Center - *Coyotes in our area*. Genoa Friendship Garden Education Center building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Plants for sale in the Greenhouse.

Green Thumb Gardening Series - Soils and Composting

Apr. 14, Maude Smith Marks Library, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Apr. 17, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Apr. 19, Freeman Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Open Garden Day

Apr. 16, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m., Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Plants for sale in the Greenhouse.

Apr. 24, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Program: *Herbs* - only children's activity program is provided. **Please RSVP to ogd.harrishort@gmail.com with the ages and number of children.** Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX 77433

May 2018

Lecture Series

May 10, P2 Second Thursday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Speaker: Suzanne Jurek from the Houston Zoo - *Bats in our area, how they are beneficial to our environment*. Genoa Friendship Garden Education Center building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Plants for sale in the Greenhouse.

Green Thumb Gardening Series - Insects in the Garden

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

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

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

Open Garden Day

May 21, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m., Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Plants for sale in the Greenhouse

May 22, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Only children's activity program is provided. **Please RSVP to ogd.harrishort@gmail.com with the ages and number of children.** Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX 77433

2018 Plant Sales

Bear Creek Extension - Spring Perennials & Vegetable Sale

Apr. 21, 8:00 a.m., *Spring Perennial & Vegetable Sale* 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Perennials and veggies suited to our summer growing season. Houston Farm and Ranch club parking lot (adjacent to the Extension)

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.

Herb of the Month - Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon*)

by Karen McGowan, Master Gardener

Some herbs are so beautiful, they can easily be mistaken for an ornamental plant! One such herb is this month's focus, lemongrass (*Cymbopogon*).

A perennial herb reaching three feet in height and two feet in width at maturity, lemongrass is a "quadruple-threat" beauty, offering soft, feathery texture that is aesthetically pleasant along with a soothing citrus fragrance that scents the garden. Lemongrass is also excellent for flavoring dishes with fresh, bright notes, and provides a natural deterrent to mosquitos throughout the year.

In keeping with this month's Green Thumb series on Soil and Composting it is worth noting that lemongrass does not overly tax its soil, nor does it require much in the way of nutrients other than well-drained conditions and occasional top-dressing with either compost or worm castings for best results. Even with neglect, however, lemongrass tends to thrive in our subtropical conditions here in south Texas.

An aromatic subtropical sedge belonging to the Poaceae family, most lemongrass species are native to South and Southeast Asia, and Australia. Lemongrass prefers considerable amounts of water and full sun conditions, and can be grown from stalks or from seed, easily propagating itself once established. If you are using stalks, these can be placed in a jar with an inch or two of water and transplanted once roots are visible.

According to organic health food sources, "the health benefits of lemongrass include relief from stomach disorders, insomnia, respiratory disorders, fever, aches, infections, rheumatism, and edema. The defensive antioxidant activity of the lemongrass herb protects against antibiotic-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and helps in maintaining optimum cholesterol levels, cellular health, nervous system, healthy skin and immune system. It is also effective in treating type 2 diabetes, cancer, and obesity, while also aiding in

detoxification. It is extensively used in aromatherapy and helps combat fatigue, anxiety, and body-odor." Quite an impressive health-boosting list!

To harvest a stalk of lemongrass, grasp firmly near the base of the stem and pull. Remove outer leaves to expose the inner, white core,



which is the part of lemongrass used in cooking, although the leaves can also be used to make a light, lemony tea. Lemongrass is utilized most frequently in Asian dishes. Finely chopped or grated lemongrass lends a bright, citrusy and slightly spicy component to stir fry and other Asian dishes, but can be used to dress up plain rice, as well. A side note, after experimenting with dried lemongrass (available in some grocery store spice sections), my verdict is that – for recipes, at least – it is underwhelming, while the fresh version is simply amazing.

Here is one of my personal recipe favorites utilizing lemongrass, from one of the chefs at Food and Wine magazine – enjoy!

Spicy Lemongrass Chicken

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken thighs, a trimmed, meat cut into 3/4-inch pieces**
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons canola oil**
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper**
- 2 plump stalks of lemongrass, tender white inner bulb only, minced**
- 1 medium red onion, quartered lengthwise and thinly sliced crosswise**
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic**
- 1/4 cup Chinese cooking wine, sake or water**
- 1/2 cup Vietnamese Stir-fry Sauce**
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon oyster sauce**
- 1 teaspoon Asian chili paste**
- 4 large scallions, cut into 1/2-inch lengths**
- 5 small dried red chiles**
- 1 large jalapeño, seeded and thinly sliced**

See Preparation on pg. 5

Citations:

- <http://www.bounceenergy.com/blog/2016/04/gardening-in-texas-part-4-growing-herbs/>
- <http://www.theprairiehomestead.com/2014/11/lemongrass-grow-use.html>
- <http://nhb.gov.in/model-project-reports/Horticulture%20Crops/Lemongrass/Lemongrass1.htm>
- <https://www.organicfacts.net/health-benefits/herbs-and-spices/health-benefits-of-lemongrass.html>
- <http://www.foodandwine.com/recipes/spicy-lemongrass-ginger-chicken>

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**NEW LOCATION
FARM & RANCH LOT
@ BEAR CREEK
9:00- 12:00PM**

Open to the public
Featuring special
Children Activities with
our Open Garden Day
Crew. Weather permitting

Children under 7 need a parent or
responsible adult within clear sight,
please.

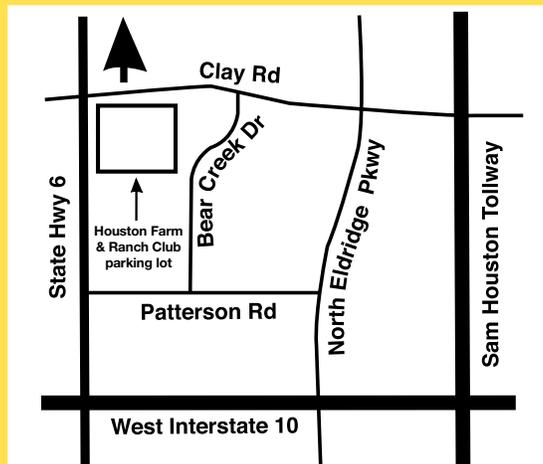
Harris County Master Gardeners Association



2018 SPRING SALE Saturday APRIL 21TH, 2018 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM



HCMGA
ASSOCIATION
1 ABERCROMBIE
DRIVE
HOUSTON, TX
77084



Plant of the Month - Coral honeysuckle

(Lonicera sempervirens)

by Beth Braun, Master Gardener

What makes for a perfect plant?

In my world of lazy gardening, the perfect plant is beautiful in form and color, robust but not invasive, tolerates a range of soil, water, and sun conditions, puts up with our relentless summer heat and occasional blast of freezing temperatures, isn't particular about when and how it's trimmed, pruned, or fertilized, is fragrant and, most importantly, it feeds bees, butterflies and birds.

Meet the Texas native Coral honeysuckle. How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

With clusters of coral trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom spring to fall against a background of blue-green evergreen foliage, this vine is a big draw for hummingbirds. Other birds drop by to eat its bright red berries in the fall. The only thing missing is fragrance, but with everything else going for it, it can be excused. Coral honeysuckle vines are already putting on a show on the Living Bridge that spans the north and south sides of Memorial Park.

You may be stuck on the "honeysuckle" part of its name and envision a vine that swallows up yards and sends underground runners everywhere. Fear not. Native plant author George O. Miller says that unlike its Japanese relative, the Coral honeysuckle is "well mannered and never trespasses". This woody vine grows by twining, so it needs a support of some sort. Or you can opt to grow it as a ground cover. Once established, the Coral honeysuckle is a no-fuss plant that needs no watering except in prolonged dry spells.

Native to East Texas and other states east and north, it adapts to a variety of soils. However, good air circulation and *good drainage* helps it avoid powdery mildew.

How do we achieve good drainage in our garden soil?

Eleven years ago, I was just beginning to learn how to improve the soil in my yard after becoming a Master Gardener. The soil brought in by the landscaper the previous year smelled sludgy, was heavy and gray, and there were no worms—not the ideal foundation for plants. I bought a tumbling composter, and when materials exceeded its capacity, added two open-air bins. My composting practice was haphazard at best, but by digging in or



Coral honeysuckle

Photo by W.D. and Dolphia Bradford, Lady Bird Wildflower Center

simply spreading finished and "almost-compost" to the beds, the soil gradually improved.

Another practice I adopted was spreading oak leaves directly on the beds in place of store-bought mulch. In their book, *Teaming with Microbes – A Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web*, Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis say that leaves "can be completely decomposed in six months", whereas bark chips can take three to four years to decompose. Jeff Bredenberg, author of *How to Cheat at Gardening and Yard Work – Shameless Tricks for Growing Radically Simple Flowers, Veggies, Lawns, Landscaping, and More*, describes compost and mulch as earth worm magnets. Worms add to the organic material with the castings they leave behind, and their tunneling aerates the soil. The layer of leaf litter and looser, richer soil underneath had an unexpected benefit in my yard—more robins foraging in the spring.

All that changed when I moved from a single-family home with a big yard to a townhouse with a tiny yard. Only the tumbler composter survived the move, and it was inadequate to handle the volume of food scraps from my kitchen. Then I stumbled on an article about bokashi composting. Say what?

The article was about a young woman in New York City who was on a crusade to teach *everyone* how to compost. Even in tight quarters. Even indoors.

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The Good Earth, *cont'd from pg. 1*



Ingredients for healthy soil - organic soil, worm castings and an organic fertilizer

organic matter and it can be produced at home in a compost pile or purchased.

Till and prepare your bed properly. Do not confuse till and tilth. Tilth can refer to the state of being tilled or rich, cultivated soil. Till means to plow or harrow the land. Plowing or spading can be done in the spring or fall. If the soil is too wet, wait until

it dries more. Fertilizer can be added beforehand so it can be worked into the soil.

Fertilize your soil - do this before planting and later during the season if necessary. Basic fertilizer ingredients can include Nitrogen (N), phosphoric acid (P205), and potash (K20). For example, a bag of 6-2-4 fertilizer has six percent nitrogen, two percent phosphoric acid and four percent potash. A starter fertilizer high in phosphorus can give your plants a boost when transplanting. Side dress your plants later in the season. Your soil needs nitrogen. Avoid getting it on the plant leaves and work it into the soil. Water it in well.

Adjust your soil's acidity if necessary - vegetables prefer a slightly acidic soil. Use lime judiciously to correct this. Alkaline soils need sulfur. Work lime or sulfur into the soil along with your fertilizer. Use only the amount needed.

Again, investing some time and money to correct your soil problems is critical. Proper preparation before you put your plants in the ground will ensure that your plants thrive and the end results will be worth it. Happy gardening to all of you.

Plant of the Month, *cont'd from pg. 6*

Bokashi composting is a fundamentally different process than the methods we're accustomed to:

- It's an anaerobic fermentation process that uses a bran or powder inoculated with beneficial microorganisms.
- It's a faster method than traditional, aerobic composting—ready in two to four weeks.
- It doesn't require "green" and "brown" materials in a proper ratio, and doesn't generate heat.
- It doesn't require mixing.
- All food waste including meat and dairy can be added.
- As a closed system, insects, rodents and smells are controlled.
- It can be done on any scale, including a small bucket with a tight seal.

Bokashi buckets and starter are readily available online. Some buckets have the added benefit of a perforated shelf that allows leachate to collect at the bottom. The liquid can be diluted and

used as a fertilizer, and it can even be poured down the drain at full strength to clean pipes.

For me, the drawback of bokashi composting is that most of the food retains its original appearance. Picture fresh and pickled cucumbers. A garden where the bokashi can be trenched into the soil is the best use of the fermented product. That's not an option where I live, so another step is needed to finish it, whether adding it to a traditional compost bin, a worm bin, or mixing it with an equal amount of a carbon source such as straw, and a handful or two of worm castings. In an airtight plastic bag or bucket stored out of direct sunlight at room temperature, the mixture will be ready in about a week.

Here are two good instruction books on the subject:

Compost City – Practical Composting Know-How for Small-Space Living, by Rebecca Louie

Bokashi Composting – Scraps to Soil in Weeks, by Adam Footer



Rainwater Harvesting Workshop

Rainwater is the best water for your plants!



When: Thursday, April 19, 2018

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

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

Cost: \$15
Please call to register by April 16th.



Enrollment is limited to the first 30 participants.

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

For more information on our other upcoming programs and to register for this program please contact Ute Schaefer: Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu or (713) 274-0950.

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



H C M G A
1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road
Houston, Texas 77034
Email: phoneHCMGA@gmail.com
Phone: 713.274.0950

HARRIS COUNTY
*Master
Gardener*
ASSOCIATION

The Genoa Friendship Gardens Welcomes you to Open Garden Days

On the 3rd Monday of every month, 8:30 am until
11:00 am, March thru October. Admission to the
Exhibit Gardens is Free

- Tour the variety of exhibits to inspire you with vegetable, perennial, rose, tropical & native gardens
- Meet and talk with a Master Garden about planting citrus, fruit or berries for you home orchard
- Contemplate the joy in the serenity garden and catch the 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 bargain prices until September.



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



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

Open Garden Day is back! OGD has been relocated to the Weekley Community Center at 8440 Greenhouse Road, Cypress, Texas 77433.

We won't have outdoor gardens, so the activities will focus on nature crafts, small plants in pots and games. Activities will include decorating seed pods and making pine cone bird feeders and acorn jewelry. There will be

coloring pages, legos, playdough and toddler puzzles. We hope you can make it!

Pre-Registration required by Sunday April 22nd, to ogd.harrishort@gmail.com with number of child participants and their ages, so we are sure to have enough supplies for everyone. Also, please contact us with questions or comments.

**2018 Tuesday
Open Garden Day schedule**

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Apr. 24th | Aug. 28th |
| May 22nd | Sep. 25th |
| Jun. 26th | Oct. 16th |
| Jul. 24th | Nov. – TBD |
| | Dec. – Winter break |



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

Spicy Lemongrass Chicken, cont'd from pg. 3

Preparation

Step 1

In a medium bowl, toss the chicken pieces with 2 tablespoons of the canola oil, 1-1/2 teaspoons of kosher salt and 3/4 teaspoon of pepper.

Step 2

In a large skillet or a wok, heat 2 tablespoons of the canola oil until small puffs of smoke begin to appear. Add half of the chicken and stir-fry over high heat until browned in spots, about 3 minutes. Transfer the chicken to a plate. Repeat with the remaining chicken

Step 3

Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil in the skillet. Add the lemongrass, onion and garlic and cook over high heat, stirring, until fragrant, 2 minutes. Add the wine and cook until slightly reduced, about 1 minute. Add the Vietnamese Stir-fry Sauce, oyster sauce, chili paste, scallions, dried chilies and jalapeño; bring to a boil. Add the chicken to the sauce and simmer until heated through, then serve. Serves 6.



FACT SHEET

Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Harris County
 3033 Bear Creek Drive, Houston, Texas 77084
 713-274-0950 • <http://harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort>

Vegetable Varieties for Harris County

* Top performers in Harris County trials

BEANS

BUSH

- Accelerator *
- Contender
- Jade
- Provider *

POLE

- McCaslan
- Northeast
- Rattlesnake

LIMA (BUTTERBEAN)

- Fordhook
- Florida Butter
- Henderson
- Jackson Bush
- Sieva (Carolina)

BEETS

- Chioggia
- Detroit Red
- Pacemaker III

BROCCOLI

- Arcadia *
- Green Magic *
- Packman

BRUSSEL SPROUTS

- Diablo
- Tasty Nugget

CABBAGE

- Early Jersey Wakefield
- Point One
- Ruby Perfection
- Sombrero

CHINESE CABBAGE

- Brisk Green
- Joi Choi
- Pac Choi

CANTALOUPE

- Ambrosia
- Caravelle
- French Orange *
- Super 45
- Tasty Bites

CARROTS

- Early Caracas *
- Mokum
- Purple Haze *
- Scarlet Nantes
- Sugarsnax 54 *

CAULIFLOWER

- Brocoverde (Cauli-Broc)
- Majestic
- Snow Crown
- Violet Queen (Purple)

CHARD

- Bright Lights
- Fordhook
- Rhubarb

COLLARDS

- Champion
- Flash
- Georgia

CORN

- Sweet**
- Bonanza (Yellow)
- Merit (Yellow)
- Silver Queen (White)
- Sugar Enhanced**
- Funk's G-90 (Bicolor)
- Kandy Korn (Yellow)
- Tendertreat (Yellow)

CORN (continued)

- Super Sweet**
- Crisp n Sweet (Y)
- Florida Stay Sweet (Y)
- Honey n Pearl (Bi)
- How Sweet It Is (W)
- Triple Sweet**
- Honey Select
- Serendipity

CUCUMBERS

- Pickling**
- Calypso
- Carolina
- H-19 Little Leaf
- Slicing**
- Diva
- Spacemaster
- Suyo
- Sweet Success

EGGPLANT

- Fairy Tale
- Neon
- Ping Tung
- Purple Rain

GARLIC

- Elephant
- Mexican Purple
- New York White
- Texan White

KALE

- Lacinato
- Red Russian
- Vates
- Winterbor

KOHLRABI

- Early White Vienna
- Grand Duke
- Purple Danube

cont'd on pg. 12

Veggie Varieties for Harris County, cont'd from pg. 11

*** Top performers in Harris County trials**

LEEKS

American Flag
King Richard

LETTUCE – Head

None Recommended

LETTUCE – Leaf

BIBB

Buttercrunch
Esmeralda

ROMAINE

Defender *
Flashy Trout Back *
Green Forest *
Parris Island *

RED

Red Fire
Red Sails
Redina
Vulcan

OAK LEAF

Brunia (Red)
Salad Bowl

MUSTARD

Florida Broadleaf
Savannah
Southern Giant Curled

OKRA

Cajun Delight
Clemson Spineless
Emerald
Louisiana Green Velvet
Silver Queen

ONION

BULBING

Burgundy
Granex (Wh, R, Y)
Grano 1015Y
Grano 502

BUNCHING

Beltsville Bunching
Southport White

PARSLEY

Italian Greenleaf
Pagoda
Triple Curl

PEAS

SOUTHERN

Blackeye #5
Mississippi Silver
Purple Hull

Texas Pinkeye
Zipper Cream

ENGLISH

Little Marvel
Wanda

SNAP

Cascadia
Sugar Ann
Sugar Bon
Sugar Snap

PEPPER

SWEET BELL

Big Bertha
Blushing Beauty
Golden Summer
Gypsy

Jackpot

Lilac

SWEET

Giant Marconi
Senorita (Jalapeno)
Super Heavy Weight

HOT

Anaheim
Mexibell
Mucho Nacho
Santa Fe Grande
Super Cayenne
TAM Hidalgo Serrano

POTATO

IRISH & NEW

Irish Cobbler (White)
Red Lasoda (Red)
Red Pontiac (Red)
Russian Banana (Fingerling)

SWEET

Beauregard
Centennial
Jewel

RADISH

Champion
Cherry Belle
Easter Egg
French Breakfast
White Icicle

SPINACH

Bloomsdale
Melody
Space Tyee

SUMMER SQUASH

YELLOW

Dixie
Pic-N-Pic *
SuperPik *

ZUCCHINI

Gold Rush
Magda
President
NOVELTY
Peter Pan
Sunburst
Trombone

WINTER SQUASH

Acorn types
Buttercup types
Butternut types
Spaghetti types
Sweet Mama

TOMATO

CHERRY

BHN 968
Juliet
Sun Gold
Sweet Chelsea
Sweet 'n Neat *
Tumbling Tom *

PASTE

Roma
Viva Italia

STANDARD

Bush Early Girl
Celebrity
Champion
Tycoon *

TURNIPS

Purple Top White Globe
Royal Globe
Shogoin
Tokyo Cross
White Lady

WATERMELON

Crimson Tide
Golden Crown
Jubilee
Mickylee
Minilee
Sugar Baby
Yellow Doll

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.

Gardening Tools

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

| | Fact Sheet | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| | Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service 3033 Bear Creek Dr, Houston, TX 77084 713-274-0950 http://harris-tx.tamu.edu | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Marginal Planting Time | | | | | | Ideal Planting Time | | | | | |
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Asparagus Crowns | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beans - Bush | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beans - Pole & Lima (Butterbean) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beets | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broccoli Plants | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brussels Sprouts | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabbage | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabbage - Chinese | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carrots | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cauliflower Plants | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chard, Swiss | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Collards | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Corn | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cucumbers | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eggplant Plants | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Garlic | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kale | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kohlrabi Plants | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leeks - Transplants | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lettuce | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Melon - Cantaloupe, Honeydew | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mustard | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Okra | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onion - Bulb-type sets | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onion - Transplant for Scallions | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onion - Multipliers | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parsley | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peas - English & Snap | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peas - Southern | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pepper Plants - Sweet | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pepper Plants - Hot | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potato - Irish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potato - Sweet | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pumpkin | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Radish | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spinach | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Squash - Summer | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Squash - Winter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tomato | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Turnips | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watermelon | | | | | | | | | | | | |

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

3033 BEAR CREEK DR.

HOUSTON, TX 77084

713-274-0950

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

hcmga.tamu.edu

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The Harris County Master Gardeners as well as Texas A&M Agrilife Extension - Harris County Horticulture are actively participating on Facebook 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 definite timesaving device for these busy garden days and helps promote our organization.

www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners

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URBAN DIRT • APRIL 2018

April Green Thumb Gardening Series



Soils and Composting

April 14

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

April 17

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

April 19

Freeman Branch Library
6:30-8:30 p.m.