

Urban Dirt

*Insects in
your garden!*

Gardening Events and Information for Texans

Boarders in Your Garden: Friend of Foe?

by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

According to an article on the Galveston County Master Gardeners website, 97% of the insects present at home are either beneficials or harmless. It's that other three percent though, that causes us so much grief. So much grief, that the USDA has designated April as Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month. State agriculture programs rely on gardeners, campers, hikers and hunters for notification regarding invasive pests, molds and other pathogens. While it's not an insect, one example is the giant African snail which has now been found in Florida. It can grow up to eight inches long and likes to dine on plaster and stucco on homes if other plant sources aren't available. By the way, that snail has a menu



Giant African snail

Photo courtesy NPR.org

of up to 500 plants it prefers to feast on. The cost of invasive pests can add up quickly. The Asian citrus psyllid cost Florida citrus growers \$4.5 billion in losses.

It was traced to California because one person carried a citrus cutting there from Asia.

Fire ants, aphids, cutworms, scale and stinkbugs can do an enormous amount of damage. Who among us hasn't been bitten by fire ants? The varmints can sting repeatedly and cause our skin to

blister. They can also kill small animals. We spotted a turtle laying eggs in our yard several years ago. We carefully marked the nest so we didn't mow over it. Then we noted the date on our calendar so we could check on the newborn turtles. We waited and waited. Finally, we dug out the nest to check on the eggs. Fire ants had gotten into the eggs before they hatched. What a disappointment.

The average home gardeners usually wage war on pests that attack our landscapes and gardens. It's important to distinguish the beneficials from the destructive pests. Beneficials can be classified into four basic types: predators, parasitoids, decomposers/recyclers and pollinators. Predator insects hunt other insects. Lacewings, assassin bugs and praying mantises are predators. Parasitoids kill their hosts. They are different from parasites which may weaken their host. A parasite is usually smaller than its host, but some parasitoids can be the same size as their host though some are much smaller. Braconid wasps are one type of parasitoid that can attack tomato hornworms. Decomposers such as earthworms are the "garbage men" of the garden. They break down complex compounds



Hornworm parasitized by braconid wasp

Photo courtesy University of Maryland

which can be recycled into simpler forms for themselves and others. Half a million earthworms in an acre of soil

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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.

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 - 11:15 a.m., Open Garden Day Children's Activities. **Registration required by Sunday, May 20 to:** ogd.harrishort@gmail.com Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX

June 2018

Lecture Series

June 14, P2 Second Thursday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Speaker: Donita Brannon from Moody Gardens Rainforest - *25 years of Changes & Challenges in the Rain Forest Pyramid.* Genoa Friendship Garden Education Center building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Plants for sale in the Greenhouse.

Green Thumb Gardening Series - *Propagation and Seed Saving*

June 16, Maude Smith Marks Library, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

June 19, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

June 21, Freeman Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Open Garden Day

June 18, 8:30-11:00 a.m., Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. *Plants for sale in the Greenhouse.*

June 26, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Open Garden Day Children's Activities. **Registration required by Sunday, June 24 to:** ogd.harrishort@gmail.com Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX

Workshop

June 8, Aquaponics Workshop, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Fee: \$45. *(lunch included).*

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

Location: Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston 77055

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



Herb of the Month - Cilantro

(Coriandrum sativum)

by Karen McGowan, Master Gardener

This month's Green Thumb focus is on insects in the garden. There are both beneficial insects and those that aren't quite as welcome. The primary undesirable insect guest in the garden that may come to mind for southern Texans as well as most of the population is probably the pesky mosquito. Our herb focus this month is on one of several herbs that purportedly serve to repel mosquitos, cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*).

While cilantro is an annual herb, it may be mistaken as a perennial in frost-free climates, because it self-seeds prolifically. The seed of the plant is known as coriander, a spice frequently used in cooking. Cilantro is the leafy portion of the plant that is delightful as a garnish, or when used toward the last part of cooking, or both. Since cilantro's taste strongly intensifies (in a way that is unpleasant to many palates) in the heated cooking process, it is generally not used until the last two to three minutes of cooking. As an alternative to heated cooking, the recipe listed at the end of this article is an example of how cilantro can be utilized in tandem with the acidity of vinegar to "cook" ingredients, producing a bright, piquant flavor without overly intensifying the dish.

An annual herb reaching about two feet in height, cilantro is in the parsley family and originates in Greece. According to various Internet sources gleaned from archeological evidence, cilantro is thought to have been in use as a garden and culinary staple for approximately 5000 years, although no one is absolutely certain. One fact about cilantro that is certain is that the herb has translated favorably across many cultures' gardens and tables. The people of China have used cilantro for centuries. Cilantro (along with dandelions) was one of the first herbs to be transported to the

Citations:

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/277627.php>
<http://www.finecooking.com/article/the-science-of-vinegar>
<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/gardening-landscaping/cilantro/>
<http://www.indepthinfo.com/cilantro/history.shtml>
<http://www.landscape-and-garden.com/HerbGardening/Coriander>

Americas from Europe. Mexico's chefs have interchanged cilantro with culantro (an herb native to Mexico) since its introduction to the Americas. When Tex-Mex was invented, cilantro was then capitalized upon (rather than culantro) as the key herb element due to its ease of access and acclimation to Texas' climate.

According to the TAMU AgriLife extension, "cilantro prefers a light, well-drained moderately fertile loam or sandy soil, but it

will tolerate many soils as long as nutrient levels and moisture are monitored." The plant's most critical need for water is during establishment, and, once established, cilantro needs little water.

TAMU additionally suggests fertilizing cilantro twice with one-half teaspoon of ammonium nitrate (34-0-0) or urea (21-0-0) per square foot. One

word of caution when planting cilantro: If you are into organic gardening and prefer making use of companion planting, be sure not to plant cilantro next to fennel, as it will inhibit seed formation in the fennel.

Three tablespoons of cilantro contains five percent of the daily recommended requirement of Vitamin A. Cilantro offers chemicals that help foods stay fresh longer, and further boasts an anti-carcinogenic effect as well as supporting skin health.

Cilantro may be harvested simply by snipping the matured leaves. These should be washed thoroughly and used immediately for best results.



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Insects in Your Garden: Friend or Foe?, *cont'd from pg. 1*

can turn out 50 tons of fertilizer. The last group of beneficial insects is the pollinators. If all the pollinators disappeared, we would not have coffee, citrus fruits, apples, etc. The annual cost of pollinators in the U.S. alone is approximately twenty billion dollars. Honeybees and butterflies are the most well known pollinators but other insects can pollinate also. Wasps and some ants also pollinate. Moths, beetles and even bats pollinate flowers that are open at night.

Sometimes identifying the good guys is difficult. One example is assassin bugs and leaf footed nymphs. The leaf footed nymphs are a younger stage of the leaf footed bug, a relative of stink bugs which have piercing, sucking mouthparts that feed on fruits, vegetables, nuts and ornamental plants. An easy way to distinguish them is by the company they keep or don't keep. Assassins are beneficials that eat a large variety of pests. They are poor flyers but they eat mosquitoes, flies, caterpillars and beetles. Leave them alone because they can bite. They usually travel alone. Leaf footed nymphs usually travel in groups with other nymphs or an adult stink bug.

Several methods and combinations of methods can help reduce the number of pests in your garden. The most important is vigilance. Check your garden often. One pest can do significant damage in



Pest - Leaf-footed nymphs

Photo courtesy <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/franklin/>



Beneficial - Assassin bug

Photo courtesy Galveston County Master Gardeners

Discard diseased plants and leaves in plastic bags. Mulch properly and plant insectary plants that attract beneficial insects. Beneficials prefer plants with small flowers arranged in clusters. This includes

asters, dill, parsley, fennel, sweet alyssum, nasturtium, candytuft, coneflowers, yarrow, daisies and goldenrod. These plants provide nectar and good landing strips. Include plants that bloom at different times within the growing season. Provide water and shelter. Birdbaths with water and small rocks or gravel for perches allow thirsty insects to keep hydrated during our heat intensive summers. Windbreaks can provide some protection for them as well. Limit your use of chemicals. Remember, some chemicals are toxic to beneficials as well. Read the labels thoroughly, follow manufacturers' instructions and use organic methods when possible. Use spot spraying.

Finally, some tips for pest control:

- Read! Identify your garden pests. Learn as much as you can. One good reference for this is our close master gardeners in Galveston County. Check out their website for excellent photos, descriptions and advice on how to handle problems. The websites are listed at the end of this article.
- Keep a log. Record what works and what didn't. You will save money in the long run.
- Use beneficials and allow room for insectary plants in your garden.
- Wage war if necessary. Use organic methods whenever possible. Don't overspray and be aware of runoff. Consider the consequences of your actions. Adopt an integrated pest management program.
- Let bugs do your dirty work. Release biocontrols. Ladybugs, praying mantis and others can be ordered.
- Determine your tolerance level. Hand-picking and water blasting may be effective for small infestations. Some gardeners use a vacuum to suck up stink bugs. One warning, though: The stink bugs catch on quickly. They become attuned to the sound of the vacuum cleaner and the little buggers have wings! They will fly away as soon as they hear the sound. How much damage does the pest cause and what does it cost for you to address the problem? Commercial farmers call this the economic threshold. Use your judgment.

The websites are: <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials/index.htm>

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials_intros/beneficials-E_attracting_beneficials.htm

Texas A&M also has a free booklet you can download. *E-194 for Managing Insect and Mite Pests in Vegetable Gardens*. The link is: <https://www.agrilifebookstore.org/Managing-Insect-and-Mite-Pests-in-Vegetable-Garden-p/e-194.htm>

Plant of the Month - American Beautyberry

(Callicarpa americana)

by Beth Braun, Master Gardener

Texas A&M University offers a tremendous resource to landscaping and horticulture professionals and hobby gardeners alike in its Earth-Kind Landscaping program. Through this program, research-proven techniques based on the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping practices are promoted to provide “maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment.” Its goals include water and energy conservation, reducing landscape waste that enters landfills, and decreasing fertilizer and pesticide use.

Within the Earth-Kind website, publications are available on beneficial insects in the garden, Integrative Pest Management (IPM) which includes non-chemical options, and practices that reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides.

By applying Earth-Kind landscaping practices, we can create beautiful, easy-care landscapes while protecting our environment.

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/>

One of the best tools offered on this website is the Earth-Kind Plant Selector (<http://ekps.tamu.edu/>).

Begin by entering a zip code, followed by your criteria such as common name, scientific name, growth habit (groundcover, shrub, large tree etc.), sun exposure, bloom color and season, leaf characteristics (deciduous, evergreen etc.), and Firewise Index (resilience to fire). Leave it blank if you don't know or don't have a preference. The database will sort and produce a list of plants to consider, starting with the perfect 10's at the top of the list.

My search for medium shrubs for sun to part sun produced the following plants with a perfect score of 10: Dwarf Pomegranate, Japanese Flowering Quince, Common Flowering Quince, Rock Rose, Yellow Bells (Esperanza), American Beautyberry, Fragrant Sumac, and Coralberry. This column will highlight the patriotic-sounding American Beautyberry.

I had seen a scraggly looking understory plant with shiny magenta seed clusters growing in dappled shade at Memorial Park. Some years later, we sold the Mexican Beautyberry at a Master Gardener plant sale, where it was described as the American Beautyberry on steroids. With its identity established, I planted an American Beauty in a butterfly-hummingbird-bee garden in full sun with no sprinkler system. New plants were hand watered as needed



American Beautyberry

Photo courtesy Earth-Kind plant selector - ekps.tamu.edu

for the first six months and during prolonged dry spells, but were otherwise on their own. Of all the colorful blooming plants, I was asked most often about the American Beautyberry, especially when its arching branches were loaded down with showy clusters of magenta berries favored by mockingbirds and other birds. No fertilizer or pesticide was ever used on that specimen. The only maintenance was to cut it 12" from the ground in early spring to maintain a manageable size and encourage blooms on new wood. It typically tops out at 6'H x 6'W, but can grow larger.

The Earth-Kind website says that the foliage and form of the American Beautyberry is “questionable”, but allows that “the fruit



American Beautyberry

Photo by Joseph Marcus, Lady Bird Wildflower Center

are a fantastic fall/winter feature”. I beg to differ on that foliage and form assessment. Given enough space, the American Beautyberry grows in a attractive fountain shape,

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Plant of the Month, *cont'd from pg. 5*



Flowering American Beautyberry

Photo by Joseph Marcus, Lady Bird Wildflower Center

and its emerging bright green leaves herald spring. True, it is deciduous and you would not grow the American Beautyberry for its foliage alone, but the large oval leaves provide a backdrop for the spectacular berry clusters in the fall. Its inconspicuous fluffy lavender-pink flowers attract butterflies in the spring.

How did the American Beautyberry earn a perfect 10 for our region in the Earth-Kind Index?

1. **High heat tolerance:** Typically provides suitable landscape performance during the summer growing season.
 2. **Low water use:** Typically needs no supplemental irrigation during the growing season.
 3. **Low soil requirement:** Does not require modifications of the native soil (i.e. aeration, drainage, water holding capacity) to provide suitable performance in the landscape.
 4. **High pest resistance:** Typically requires no physical or chemical controls for insect, mite and/or disease pests.
 5. **Low fertility requirement:** Typically does not require supplemental nitrogen (N) for suitable performance in the landscape.
- The Firewise Index score for this plant is a 6. According to the Earth-Kind website, this index is an estimate of the fire-resistant characteristics of Texas landscaping plants, and takes into account the predicted water use, heat tolerance and estimated flammability for plant species within a region.

The American Beautyberry self-propagates from seed, but isn't invasive. While often available in local nurseries, it can also be propagated from softwood tip cuttings and root cuttings. According to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Native Americans used root and leaf tea in sweat baths for rheumatism, fevers, and malaria. Root tea was used for dysentery and stomach aches, while root and berry tea was used for colic.

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

For those interested in utilizing cilantro in recipes – keep reading! Returning to the subject of vinegar used in tandem with cilantro (and other herbs) to brighten color and produce an amazing chime of flavor, modern, local cooks are in luck, as Houston offers many fantastic vinegar and oil shops. One of my very favorites is Olive

& Vine. Olive & Vine carries both light and dark aged balsamic vinegars (in addition to various fabulous oils). Among their many hugely popular vinegars is Tropical Mango, and you will see this selection used in my below original recipe:

Mason Jar Fresh Asian Salad

1-2 tsps fresh grated ginger
½ TB grapeseed oil
1-2 medium cloves fresh garlic, finely minced
Juice of one or two limes
½ TB rice wine vinegar
1 TB Olive & Vine Tropical Mango vinegar, divided
Freshly ground pink Himalayan salt (to taste)
Freshly ground black pepper
1-2 TB (to taste) chopped, fresh jalapeno pepper (deseeded)
1 ½ cups shredded green and red cabbage
1 cup chopped broccoli
4-5 mini sweet yellow, orange, and red peppers, chopped
2-3 TB chopped cilantro, plus more for garnish, if desired
¼ chopped lightly salted peanuts (optional garnish)

In a large mason jar, mix together first five ingredients and black pepper. Place lid securely on jar and shake ingredients vigorously for a few seconds. Remove lid and add jalapeno. Add cabbage and sprinkle with salt. Next, add chopped broccoli, yellow, orange, and red sweet peppers, and cilantro. Secure lid and shake vigorously until all ingredients are mixed thoroughly. Allow to sit on counter 1-4 hours. I prefer the longer marinating process, but don't always have the time! Plate and garnish with additional cilantro (if desired), reserved ½ TB of Tropical Mango vinegar, and chopped peanuts. Enjoy the bright flavors and colors of these fresh ingredients. Here's to your health!

Bait & Switch?

Planting to attract beneficials while repelling pests

by Carolyn Boyd, Master Gardener

The ideal garden is one that can take care of itself. Many gardeners think it's just a pipe dream. But, with some judicious planning, you can take steps to make it more possible. Creating a mixture of plants that attract beneficial insects, while repelling harmful insects and pests, can reduce your workload and reduce insecticide usage. Fewer insecticides increase the good bug population, which in turn, helps control garden pests. Here are just a few plants that can improve your gardening experience.

Bee Balm – *Monarda didyma*

Attracts bees, great to plant with tomatoes.

Borage – *Borago officinalis*

Repels tomato hornworms and cabbage worms, attracts beneficial bees and wasps.

Chrysanthemum –

Chrysanthemum

Repels roaches, ants, Japanese beetles, ticks, silverfish, lice, fleas, bedbugs, spider mites, harlequin bugs and root-knot nematodes.



Chrysanthemum

Dill – *Anethum graveolens*

Attracts hoverflies and predatory wasps, repels aphids, squash bugs, spider mites, cabbage loopers and tomato hornworms.



Dill

Fennel –

Foeniculum vulgare

Repels aphids, slugs and snails.

Garlic – *Allium sativum*

Repels rabbits, ants and aphids.

Geranium –

Pelargonium

Repels leafhoppers and Japanese beetles.



Geranium

Lavender –

Lavandula angustifolia

Attracts beneficial bugs, repels fleas and moths.



Lavender

Lemongrass –

Cymbopogon citratus

Repels mosquitoes with its strong fragrance.

Lovage –

Levisticum officinale

Attracts ground beetles and Ichneumonid Wasps, which are beneficial bugs.



Nasturtiums

Nasturtiums –

Tropaeolum majus

Repels woolly aphids, whiteflies, squash bugs and cucumber beetles.

Parsley –

Petroselinum crispum

Repels asparagus beetles.



Petunias

Petunias – *Petunia*

Repels aphids, tomato hornworms, asparagus beetles, leafhoppers and squash bugs.

Sage – *Salvia officinalis*

Attracts bees, repels cabbage and carrot flies, cabbage loopers, black flea beetles and cabbage maggots.

Thyme – *Thymus vulgaris*

Repels whiteflies, cabbage loopers, corn earworms, tomato hornworms and small whites.

Citations:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/blog/articleid/183/pest-repelling-plants.aspx>

<https://www.mnn.com/your-home/organic-farming-gardening/stories/12-plants-that-repel-unwanted-insects>

<https://www.naturalnewsblogs.com/5-plants-repel-garden-insect-pests/>

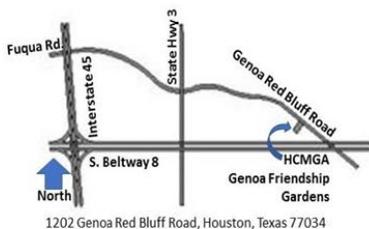
<https://survivalife.com/plants-repel-insects/>



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.



H C M G A
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Email: phoneHCMGA@gmail.com
Phone: 713.274.0950



HARRIS COUNTY
Master Gardener
ASSOCIATION

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 May 20th, 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**

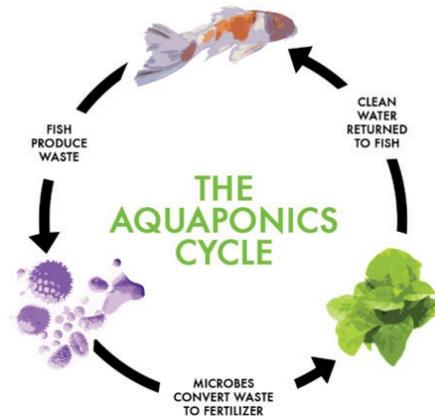
May 22nd	Sep. 25th
Jun. 26th	Oct .16th
Jul. 24th	Nov. – TBD
Aug. 28th	Dec. – Winter break



AQUAPONICS WORKSHOP

What is Aquaponics?

Aquaponics is the combination of aquaculture (raising fish) and hydroponics (the soil-less growing of plants) that grows fish and plants together in one integrated system. The fish waste provides an organic food source for the plants, and the plants naturally filter the water for the fish.



Interested in trying Aquaponics? Come learn the latest information to help get you started:

- System Designs
- Water Quality
- Maximizing Production
- Fish & Plant Selection
- Pest & Disease Control

Friday, June 8th from 9:00 – 3:30 p..m.

*Trini Mendenhall Community Center
1414 Wirt Rd. Houston, TX 77055*

Cost is \$45.00 (lunch included)

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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

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.



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
 Northeastern
 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											
	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												

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hcmga.tamu.edu

Like Us On Facebook

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

www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyHorticulture

URBAN DIRT • MAY 2018

May 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.