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 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 which can be recycled into simpler forms for themselves and others. Half a million earthworms in an acre of soil cont’d on pg.4
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


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

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

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

cont’d on pg. 6
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 it 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 a short amount of time. Daily surveillance is best. Check your plants. Don’t forget to check the undersides of leaves as well. Check the stalks, the bark and look for insect droppings. Adopt an integrated pest management program. Plant disease resistant varieties. Healthy plants need good air circulation, drainage and adequate moisture.

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. Bird baths 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 mantises 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
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 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 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,
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.

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 controls 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.

**Dill – Anethum graveolens**
Attracts hoverflies and predatory wasps, repels aphids, squash bugs, spider mites, cabbage loopers and tomato hornworms.

**Fennel – Foeniculum vulgare**
Repels aphids, slugs and snails.

**Garlic – Allium sativum**
Repels rabbits, ants and aphids.

**Geranium – Pelargonium**
Repels leafhoppers and Japanese beetles.

**Lavender – Lavandula angustifolia**
Attracts beneficial bugs, repels fleas and moths.

**Lemongrass – Cymbopogon citratus**
Repels mosquitoes with its strong fragrance.

**Lovage – Levisticum officinale**
Attracts ground beetles and Ichneumonid Wasps, which are beneficial bugs.

**Nasturtiums – Tropaeolum majus**
Repels woolly aphids, whiteflies, squash bugs and cucumber beetles.

**Parsley – Petroselinum crispum**
Repels aphids, tomato hornworms, asparagus beetles, leafhoppers and squash bugs.

**Petunias – Petunia**
Repels aphids, tomato hornworms, asparagus beetles, leafhoppers and squash bugs.

**Sage – Salvia officinalis**
Repels 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:
https://www.naturalnewsblogs.com/5-plants-repel-garden-insect-pests/
https://survivallife.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
1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road
Houston, Texas 77034
Email: phoneHCMGA@gmail.com
Phone: 713.274.0950
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 22nd</td>
<td>Sep. 25th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 26th</td>
<td>Oct. 16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul. 24th</td>
<td>Nov. – TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 28th</td>
<td>Dec. – Winter break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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)

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.
**Vegetable Varieties for Harris County**

**BEANS**
- **BUSH**
  - Accelerator *
  - Contender
  - Jade
  - Provider *
- **POLE**
  - McCaslan
  - Northeaster
  - Rattlesnake

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

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

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

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

**BEETS**
- Chioggia
- Detroit Red
- Pacemaker III

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

**CHARD**
- Neon
- Arcadia *
- Bright Lights
- Fordhook
- Rhubarb

**POLE**
- **McCaslan**
- **Northeaster**
- **Rattlesnake**

**BROCCOLI**
- **Arcadia** *
- **Green Magic** *
- **Packman**

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

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

**COUSIN**
- **Cauliflower**
- **Broccolini**
- **Choi**
- **Cabbage**
- **Collards**
- **Diablo**
- **Flash**
- **How Sweet It Is** (W)
- **Kale**
- **Lettuce**
- **Lima (Butterbean)**
- **Lima** (Butterbean)
- **Lima**

**CUCUMBERS**
- **Pickling**
- **Calypso**
- **Carolina**
- **H-19 Little Leaf**

**Eggplant**
- **Fairy Tale**
- **Neon**
- **Ping Tung**
- **Purple Rain**

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

**Kohlrabi**
- **Early White Vienna**
- **Grand Duke**
- **Purple Danube**

* Top performers in Harris County trials

---

**cont'd on pg. 12**
**Veggie Varieties for Harris County, cont’d from pg. 11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEEKS</th>
<th>PARSLEY</th>
<th>POTATO</th>
<th>WINTER SQUASH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Flag</td>
<td>Italian Greenleaf</td>
<td>Irish &amp; New Irish Cobbler (White)</td>
<td>Acorn types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Richard</td>
<td>Pagoda</td>
<td>Red Lasoda (Red)</td>
<td>Buttercup types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triple Curl</td>
<td>Red Pontiac (Red)</td>
<td>Butternut types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Russian Banana (Fingerling)</td>
<td>Spaghetti types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sweet Mama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LETTUCE – Head</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None Recommended</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LETTUCE – Leaf</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buttercrunch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esmeralda</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROMAINE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defender *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flashy Trout Back *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Forest *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parris Island *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RED</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Fire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Sails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redina</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulcan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAK LEAF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunia (Red)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad Bowl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MUSTARD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Broadleaf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannah</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Giant Curled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OKRA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cajun Delight</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clemson Spineless</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana Green Velvet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Queen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ONION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULBING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burgundy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granex (Wh, R, Y)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grano 1015Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grano 502</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUNCHING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beltsville Bunching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southport White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PEPPER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEET BELL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Bertha</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blushing Beauty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gypsy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackpot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilac</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SWEET</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant Marconi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senorita (Jalapeno)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Heavy Weight</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaheim</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexibell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucho Nacho</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe Grande</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Cayenne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAM Hidalgo Serrano</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUMMER SQUASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YELLOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dixie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pic-N-Pic *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SuperPik *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ZUCCHINI</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Rush</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magda</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOVELTY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Pan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunburst</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trombone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATERMELON</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimson Tide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Crown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jubilee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micky Lee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minilee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Baby</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Doll</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Top performers in Harris County trials

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 A&M Agrilife Extension**

**Vegetable Garden Planting Dates**

*for Harris County*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asparagus Crowns</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans - Bush</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans - Pole &amp; Lima (Lima bean)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broccoli Plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brussels Sprouts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage - Chinese</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cauliflower Plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chard, Swiss</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumbers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggplant Plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kale</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kohlrabi Plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeks - Transplants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melon - Cantaloupe, Honeydew</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions - Bulb-type sets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion - Transplant for Scallions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion - Multipurpose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parsley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas - English &amp; Snap</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peas - Southern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper Plants - Sweet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper Plants - Hot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato - Irish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato - Sweet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pumpkin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squash - Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squash - Winter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnips</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watermelon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Marginal Planting Time* and *Ideal Planting Time* are indicated in the chart.
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

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.