

Urban Dirt

Propagation and Seed Saving issue!

Gardening Events and Information for Texans

To Propagate or Not

Article and photos by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

When you're a gardener there are so many decisions to make regarding your plant selections. Indoor plants, outdoor plants or both, in containers or in a bed, or a combination, should we go organic or non-organic, it's tough to decide. At some point, though, many of us choose the economical way: we grow from seed, we root cuttings, we graft and we attend plant swaps. Plant propagation is a huge topic.

I'll admit, as a gardener I'm harsh. I don't have a lot of shade so most of my plants must tolerate Texas heat. I don't carry in or cover plants over the winter. Either you make it or you don't. The other stipulation I have is my plants must put out. No greenery at this place. You have to earn your keep out here. My plants must smell good, look good, or be edible. The longer I garden, the cheaper I get. I do buy plants, but lately I have begun exploring



A variety of propagation containers

other less expensive options to increase my plant inventory. I order seeds, I divide plants, I am learning how to graft and I have now discovered plant swaps. I also prowled the clearance section at certain big box stores. I am confident in my gardening skills. By waving my magic wand and using enough fertilizer, I can bring the dead back to life. Well, maybe.

For my seeds I use a variety of methods and containers. Egg cartons, expandable peat pots, those plastic cups that are so popular - I use them all. I have a heat mat and grow lights along with a small fan I keep close to my seedlings because I want strong stalks. I'm getting better at hardening off my seedlings before I toss them out into full sun. One of the easiest propagation methods I tried came from a Facebook post. I purchased a large bag of Miracle-Gro garden soil, poked some holes on the underside for drainage and slit off

the top part of the bag to expose the soil. Using a shaker with large holes, I combined about two tablespoons of cornstarch with tiny lettuce seeds and sprinkled that on top of the bag.



Lettuce grown in a bag of garden soil

Combining the cornstarch with the small seeds allowed me to have a better seed distribution. Sprinkle with a light dusting of vermiculite and voila! Instant microgreens. This year I'm going to do it with basil.

Some of the things I've learned along the way: don't waste your time with puny seedlings because they only grow into puny plants

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.

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

July 2018

Lecture Series

July 12, P2 Second Thursday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Speaker: Tony Collins, retired University of Houston professor - Begonias. Genoa Friendship Garden Education Center building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Plants for sale in the Greenhouse.

Green Thumb Gardening Series - Raised Beds, Drip Irrigation & Rain Barrels

July 12, Barbara Bush Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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

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

July 21, Maude Smith Marks Library, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Open Garden Day

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

July 24, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Open Garden Day Children's Activities. **Registration required by Sunday, July 22 to: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com** Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX

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.

My Go-To References

Article and photo by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

At home I keep three references handy for seed and plant propagation. The first one I'll discuss is the first one I bought, *Park's Success with Seed* by Karen Park Jennings. Karen is the granddaughter of George W. Park, the founder of Park Seed. He founded the company 150 years ago. The book is one of my favorites because of all the color photos it has. It has over 400 different plants species and shows the seedling and the mature plant as well as its seeds. Ever since I tried growing a plant from the husk instead of a seed, I have been wary. Germination requirements for the plants and a gardening glossary are included. There's a short botany 101 lesson on seeds along with a chapter on sowing seeds indoors. House plants, container plants and outdoor plants- they're included. There's a chapter on ornamentals as well as herbs and other edible plants. From *Abelmoschus* manihot (hibiscus) to *Zea mays* (corn), it's there.

The Seed Garden: The Art and Practice of Seed Saving, edited by Lee Buttala and Sharyn Siegel is published by the Seed Savers Exchange. The Seed Savers Exchange is a non-profit organization which focuses on preserving and sharing heirloom seeds and plants. Located in Iowa, the SSE was founded in 1975 and has 13,000 members (including yours truly) and more than 20,000 plant varieties. The book has nearly 400 pages and focuses on



seed saving techniques, including a lesson on how to recover tomato seeds. I have included that lesson in this issue. Another useful lesson shows how to hand-pollinate squash. It doesn't have as many pictures as the Park's book, but it is more detailed. It discusses short term and long term storage of seeds and also mentions the proper time to harvest seeds on different plant varieties.

This book is a must if you are into preserving heirloom plant seeds.

The final book was recommended to me by a fellow master gardener from Galveston County. It is the most specialized of the three books. *The Grafters Handbook* by R.J. Garner is considered to be the "bible" for those interested in grafting. It lacks color photos, but the sketches are detailed. It covers the tools and accessories needed, discusses rootstocks from seed and vegetative rootstock propagation and the ABCs

of scion wood. The different methods of grafting are thoroughly covered. I had no idea there were so many types of grafting methods. This is one book I intend to read several times because I hope to become proficient at grafting someday.

To summarize, there are many books available for gardeners to choose from in regards to plant propagation. Choose one that meets your needs. As gardeners, we continue to "grow" just as our plants do. Sow long for now.

To Propagate or Not, *cont'd from pg. 1*

and break your heart. If that seedling sprouted late and looked pitiful from the get-go, don't waste your time. Transplant only the healthiest, strongest looking seedlings and don't transplant them until they have two sets of true leaves. Attempting different propagation techniques has improved my gardening skills. Now I want to expand my horizons. Air layering, leaf bud cuttings, I want

to try these methods as well. Perhaps the master gardeners' lectures will discuss these sometime in the future. Then we could all add to our plant knowledge. In the meantime, I will continue my quest to learn what I can at other master gardener lectures supplemented by youtube videos and my gardening books. Happy propagating to all of you.

Herb of the Month - Marjoram

(Origanum majorana)

by Karen McGowan, Master Gardener

With June's focus on plant propagation, let's take a look at marjoram, a hardy perennial that can thrive throughout the year in south Texas when protected from the cold. Marjoram can be propagated from seed, cuttings, layering, or by dividing the root.

Marjoram, (*Origanum majorana*), also called sweet marjoram, is a member of the mint family, and is sometimes mistaken for oregano. With a surprisingly different chemical composition from oregano, marjoram's flavor is a bit more subtle than oregano's; distinctive, warm, aromatic, and slightly sharp. However, similar to oregano, marjoram pairs particularly well with sausages and other meats, poultry, stuffing, eggs, and vegetables, as well as soups and stews.

As with many popular herbs, marjoram is native to the Mediterranean region and western Asia. It has been in use as a culinary enhancer for centuries, as well as, purportedly, offering a wide range of health benefits, including digestive aid, lowering blood pressure, preventing the buildup of cholesterol, and improving blood circulation. Every two tablespoons of marjoram contains the RDA of 6 % of vitamin A, 8 % of calcium, 3.5 % of vitamin C, and 18 % of iron. While ingesting two full tablespoons of marjoram in one sitting would probably not be palatable, when marjoram and other herbs are spread across a daily meal plan they offer significant opportunity to boost both health and food flavor.



Marjoram is a woody sub-shrub with aromatic foliage that typically grows in an upright mound to one or two feet in height. The plant features branching, reddish, square stems that are densely



clad with ovate, highly aromatic, pubescent, gray-green leaves that are up to 1.25 inches in length. Tiny, two-lipped, tubular, white or pale pink flowers with gray-green bracts bloom in spike-like clusters from mid to late summer, attracting butterflies and bees.

During the Tudor and Stewart periods, marjoram was grown in English knot gardens as bee and butterfly plants, and used in mazes during the 16th century. Sweet marjoram has long been an herb of love. According to Roman legend, the goddess of love, Venus, gave the plant its scent "to remind mortals of her beauty". A similar legend surrounds Aphrodite, Venus's counterpart in Greek mythology, who is said to have created sweet marjoram and grew it on Mount Olympus. Marjoram has been used in love potions and spells and as an added herb in nosegays and bridal bouquets. In ancient Greece and Rome a crown of marjoram was worn by the bride and groom during wedding ceremonies, a tradition that has also been associated with wild marjoram. There is more than one folk tradition linking marjoram to love and divinatory dreams. According to one legend, if a woman placed marjoram in her bed before going to sleep, Aphrodite would appear in a dream to "reveal her future spouse's identity". Marjoram was also one of the herbs used to divine a future spouse in a St. Luke's Day tradition when combined with marigold flowers, thyme, wormwood, honey and vinegar. If anointed with this mixture before bed, a girl would dream of her future husband. With this sort of storied romantic history, you would imagine by now there would be a dating app named after marjoram.

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SAVE THE DATE!

HOUSTON URBAN FOOD PRODUCTION CONFERENCE



DATE: JULY 27, 2018
TIME: 9:00 - 3:30 P.M.
LOCATION: UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON DOWNTOWN
201 GIRARD, HOUSTON, TX 77002
COST: STUDENT \$30, GENERAL ADMISSION \$50
REGISTER: [HTTPS:// / HUFPC2018.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://hufpc2018.eventbrite.com)



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

Cooperative Extension Program



Center for Urban Agriculture
and Sustainability

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.

Plant of the Month - Desert willow, Flowering willow, Willowleaf catalpa, Flor de mimbres etc. (*Chilopsis linearis*)

by Beth Braun, Master Gardener

The Plant Messiah: Adventures in Search of the World's Rarest Species, by Carlos Magdalena, describes one man's passion—even obsession—to save extinct or nearly extinct plants. A Spaniard with little formal horticultural training before entering a training program at Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Magdalena often had little to work with other than seeds (sometimes centuries old) or cuttings from the last known remaining plant, his mother's green thumb, and a hefty dose of persistence. The book is a travelogue to far-flung places around the globe, a recounting of his successes and failures, and a study of propagation methods, driven by his belief that “. . . every species has a right to live without justifying its existence.” (Having just recovered from a terrible bout of contact dermatitis from Poison ivy, I am tempted to argue that point.)

Closer to home, I was asked a few years ago to give the children's talk during my congregation's service, based on the parable of a farmer who sowed seeds. Depending on where the seeds fell, they were eaten by birds or sprouted with shallow roots and were scorched, or were choked out by weeds, or thrived in good soil.

To illustrate various ways seeds scatter, I collected seeds and seed pods in the garden. The service produced boys—a whole row of them sitting next to me at the front of the sanctuary, facing the congregation. As I passed each clear bag with seeds, I told them what plants they came from and how the seeds were likely to spread, given their characteristics. We got to the last bag filled with milkweed seeds wrapped in their silky coma, and as I babbled happily about milkweed and Monarch butterflies, I noticed too late that milkweed seeds were flying everywhere and the boys were playing a new game called Don't Let It Land. No doubt the point of the story was lost on them, but I hope the exercise left a fun memory and maybe curiosity.

One of the seed pods I showed the kids came from the Desert willow. It took some years to get this little tree established, and it was threatened with termination more than once. One year it was a dragonfly who came to its rescue when it landed on a perfectly dead and bare stock. If a dragonfly had a use for it, it deserved a place in the garden . . . or so my thinking went. Maybe it was



Desert Willow

Photo courtesy USDA. US Forest Service

threatened with demise during this past cold winter and is putting its might into preserving itself; but whatever the reason, it is putting on a show this spring.

To quote from the best, here is an excellent description of our featured plant from Texas A&M!: Desert willow is a delicate, small, deciduous tree native to west Texas and the Edwards Plateau. Its long narrow leaves resemble those of willows (*Salix* spp.), although they are not related. Its flowers occur in showy clusters at the tips of the branches and on new wood, occurring from late spring to fall, depending on the rainfall. They are trumpet-shaped, sweetly fragrant, and range from light pink to light violet, rarely



Desert Willow bloom

Photo by Louis R Nugent, Lady Bird Wildflower Center

white or red. Its ability to withstand arid conditions, beautiful flowers and long flowering period make it one of Texas's best small native trees.

It is easily

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Recovering Tomato Seeds

Article and photos by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

My Seed Garden book shows how to ferment tomato seeds for future planting. While it is too late to start tomatoes from seed, they can be recovered in time for a fall garden. The recovered seeds can also be stored in the refrigerator or freezer for a spring crop. Use heirloom tomatoes since hybrid tomato seeds will not reproduce. Don't forget to record the variety when storing your seeds.

1. Cut the tomato in half along its equator



2. Squeeze the tomato over a container. The pulp and seeds should all come out.



3. Once you have the pulp and seeds in the container the fermenting process will begin. Add about 1/2-1 cup of water depending on the volume of pulp and seeds you have. In this example, I only used one tomato. Place the container in a warm spot. A temperature between 70 and 85° F is best. The process should take one to three days, no longer! The placental sacs should begin to break down. Stir occasionally. If a white mold appears, that's okay.



4. Once the mature seeds shed their sac, they will sink to the bottom. Fermentation is complete when most of the seeds have settled to the bottom.



5. Add more water if necessary and carefully pour off the pulp and liquid. Any seeds at the top should also be disposed of. You want to recover only those seeds at the bottom. Continuing decanting the water until only the mature seeds at the bottom of the container remain.



6. Using a strainer, recover the mature seeds left at the bottom of the container. Rinse thoroughly until they are clean.



7. Spread the seeds out on a coffee filter or a paper towel and allow them to dry. If the seeds are too close together, mix them so they will not adhere to each other while drying. Store them after they are dried.



Plant of the Month, *cont'd from pg. 7*

cultivated but must have a well-drained site and must not be over-watered; in areas with more than 30 inches of annual rainfall, it must be planted in raised beds and watered carefully, especially in winter. Growth is irregular and requires attention to early trunk development. It can be pruned to a tree or shrub; since it blooms on new wood, the more it is pruned, the more it flowers.

Plant Habit or Use: small tree

Exposure: sun

Flower Color: white to lavender-maroon, bi-colors

Blooming Period: summer fall

Fruit Characteristics: long, narrow two-valved pod containing small flattened winged seeds

Height: 15 ft. to 20 ft. (30 ft.)

Width: 15 ft. to 20 ft.

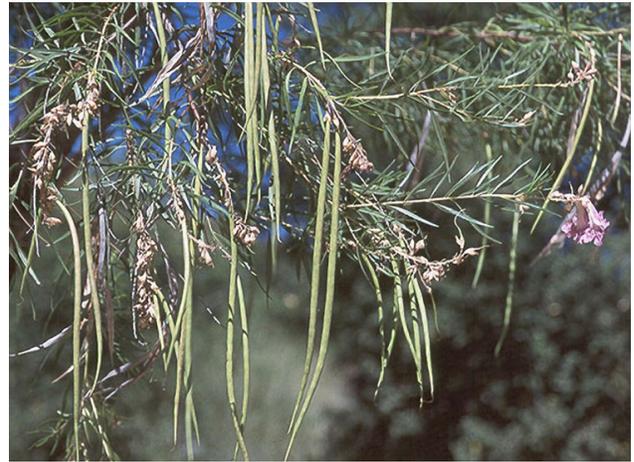
Plant Character: deciduous

Heat Tolerance: very high

Water Requirements: low

Soil Requirements: adaptable

During a road trip that took me through Lubbock, Desert willow was a common sight in planned landscapes. This small tree grows in an attractive multi-trunked form that requires little maintenance. The 6-10" seeds pods dangle from bare branches



Seed pods

Photo courtesy OregonState.edu

through winter, and offer a different sort of beauty than the showy flowers. The Arbor Day Foundation reports that the seeds of the Desert willow are eaten by wildlife, and the flowers attract hummingbirds.

The Desert willow is related to catalpa trees, Yellowbells (*Tecoma stans*), and Trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*).²

¹<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/natives/CHILOPSISLINEARIS.HTM>

²https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=chli2

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

As with many herbs, marjoram enjoys full or partial sun and well-drained soil. Good air circulation and soil aeration is essential. Marjoram experiences few disease or insect issues other than root rot in wet, poorly drained soils. Unless growing in flats, it is generally not recommended to start marjoram by seed; rather, from division or cuttings. If grown from seed, the resultant plant will often lack the desired scent and flavor due to genetic variation and crossing. Recommended propagation methods such as division and cuttings clone the source plant's chemistry and form, as well as preserve its aroma and flavor. Additionally recommended is using ground rocks, shells or greensand, plus builder's sand and a mixture of compost, fish meal, blood meal, and/or worm castings to provide a healthy root foundation.

Citations:

<https://plantvillage.psu.edu/topics/marjoram/infos>

<https://www.britannica.com/plant/marjoram>

<https://www.herbwisdom.com/herb-marjoram.html>

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/gardening-landscaping/herbs-texas-landscapes/>

http://www.herbsociety.org/file_download/inline/b30630e2-d0a9-4632-a7da-14af53a07a67

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=d828>

Once established, routine light pruning is advised to maintain plant health and form. Pick fresh marjoram leaves as needed, beginning 4 to 6 weeks after planting, removing no more than a third of the plant's leaves in a single harvest. These may be used immediately, or dried.

At this point in my herb articles, it has become tradition to introduce a favorite recipe utilizing the featured herb, but in the case of marjoram, I use it so frequently and across such a widely diverse variety of dishes that it would be impossible to choose just one. My favorite taps for marjoram include egg dishes, soups, and dishes of French and Spanish origin, and whenever I am looking to add something subtle yet complex, to intrigue the palate. Marjoram is an excellent mainstay, year-round. Enjoy!

Tips for Plant Propagation

by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

You cannot propagate a patented plant without written permission from the patent holder. Patented plants will have a patent number or the letters PPAF or PVR after the cultivar name. Trademarked plants can be propagated but cannot be sold under the trademarked name. Plants that are trademarked will have the symbol ® or the letters TM by the plant name.

Use heirloom seeds. Hybrid seeds will not breed true.

Scarification is the process of altering the seed coat to help germination. Some seeds such as morning glories and Texas native star hibiscus have hard coats. Gently nick the seed with a file, an emory board or a nail clipper.

To scarify canna seeds, bring water to a boil, remove the pan from the heat and toss in a handful of the canna seeds. The seeds will crackle, pop and expand quickly. When the water cools, remove the seeds and plant.

Seeds that should be soaked before sowing are usually wrinkly or those that have been scarified.

Some seeds require stratification. In our area bluebonnets seeds should be sown in the fall for spring blooms. Cold stratification can be done indoors using your refrigerator. Most seed packets will contain information for cold stratification if it is required.

Use a propagation journal. Record when seeds were sown along with the germination date. If possible, note the percentage of seeds that germinated. Also record the seed supplier. My own personal rule is if I have poor germination rates twice from a supplier, then I don't buy from them anymore. If a different variety



pops up other than the one I ordered, I record that also. Two strikes and that supplier is out.

When sowing seeds that are tiny, such as carrots, parsley and basil, use cornstarch! In the past I have added 1-2 tablespoons of dry cornstarch to small seeds for even sowing distribution. I use an empty spice container that has large holes. You can also use cornstarch to make a gel suspension. Boil one cup of water with 1 tablespoon of cornstarch for a thick suspension. Allow the mixture to cool. Add the seeds and transfer solution to a sandwich bag with a small hole cut in the corner. Spread in small lines into your soil.



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 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**

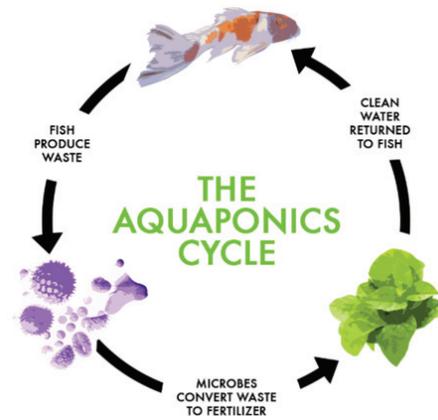
Jun. 26th	Sep. 25th
Jul. 24th	Oct. 16th
Aug. 28th	Nov. – TBD
	Dec. – Winter break



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
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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
 Northeaster
 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

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.

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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 AGRI LIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

3033 BEAR CREEK DR.

HOUSTON, TX 77084

713-274-0950

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

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 • JUNE 2018

June 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.