Preparing Citrus and Pecan Trees for Cold Weather

by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

It’s hard to believe but cold weather is around the corner. While summer is my favorite season, there are two crops I look forward to in fall and winter. Pecans and citrus are my favorites. I inherited the love of both from my mother. We always had a bowl of pecans on our coffee table in our house along with a nutcracker and our fridge always had fresh citrus when they were in season. I recall riding down back roads with her while she searched for pecan and citrus stands. At that time, the fruit stand sellers allowed you to taste their harvest. I have great memories of those trips.

Careful selection of your citrus varieties can extend your harvest from late summer through the first of the year. Citrus trees require little maintenance and the smell of their blooms can be intoxicating. Those blooms also attract the giant swallowtail butterfly. Citrus trees purchased at Urban Harvest sales and Master Gardener sales should do well in our area. The biggest problem I have had so far is from leaf miners. Whether you choose to treat your tree by spraying with neem oil is your decision. So far I have not done this. I do use leaf miner pest strips and those seem to keep the problem under control.

Deciding when to quit fertilizing my citrus used to be a problem. Now I stop at the end of summer. I don’t want to encourage tender new leaf growth that is susceptible to the cold. I also recommend using fertilizers specific for citrus trees. Microlife Citrus & Fruit 6-2-4 fertilizer is my favorite, but of course you may prefer another brand. Avoid buying any citrus that you have not researched. Most citrus trees will take three to five years to produce fruit and you do not want to invest your time in a citrus tree that is not suitable for our area.

Tips to prepare for an upcoming freeze include: stock up on cardboard. It is a cheap way to protect the trunk of your citrus tree. Start below the main limbs and continue until just above the ground. Use duct tape to keep it in place. Remember, though--if the cardboard gets wet it should be replaced. Christmas lights wrapped around the tree can also help. Use the old fashioned glass...
Upcoming Events

October 2018

**Master Gardener Lecture Series**

**Green Thumb Gardening Series - Trees: Planting and Care (includes fruit trees)**
- **Oct. 11,** Barbara Bush Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 16,** Spring Branch Memorial Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 18,** Freeman Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 20,** Maude Smith Marks Library, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Urban Gardening Certificate Program**
1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Alice Young Library, 5107 Griggs Rd, Houston, TX 77021, Contact Lindsey Mouton, 713-274-0950, email: Lindsey.Mouton@ag.tamu.edu
- **Oct. 5,** Economic Benefits of Gardening
- **Oct. 12,** Importance of Composting
- **Oct. 19,** Good Bugs vs. Bad Bugs
- **Oct. 26,** Vegetable Gardening in the Fall

**Open Garden Day**
- **Oct. 15,** 8:30 - 11:00 a.m., Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. *Plants for sale in the Greenhouse*
- **Oct. 16,** 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Open Garden Day Children’s Activities. *Registration required by Sunday, October 14 to: ogd.harrishort@gmail.com.* Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX

**Plant Sale - Fall Perennial Sale**
- **Oct. 6,** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Berry Center of Northwest Houston, 8877 Barker Cypress Road, Cypress, TX 77433

November 2018

**Urban Gardening Certificate Program**
1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Alice Young Library, 5107 Griggs Rd, Houston, TX 77021, Contact Lindsey Mouton, 713-274-0950, email: Lindsey.Mouton@ag.tamu.edu
- **Nov. 2,** Creating Healthy Soil

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.
Harris County Master Gardeners Association

NEW LOCATION

2018 FALL PERENNIAL SALE
Saturday OCTOBER 6th, 2018

8:45-9:00 AM
GATES OPEN

Open to the public
with featured vendors and
information booths

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sale Hours

SALE LOCATION

BERRY CENTER OF NORTHWEST HOUSTON
8877 Barker Cypress Road | Cypress, TX 77433
Preparing Citrus and Pecan Trees for Cold Weather, cont’d from pg. 1

bulb lights that generate heat. If you mulch, don’t mulch up to the tree trunk. Leave an area around the base free. Some people use chicken wire wrapped around the trunk and stuff it with leaves. Again, if these get wet, you may need to replace them. Water the trees before a freeze. A tree that is not water-stressed can fend for itself better. Keep an eye out for scale and aphids and treat accordingly. Follow the directions on the package.

Postpone pruning until after the last freeze predicted for your area. This is usually mid to late spring. It is easier then to evaluate the freeze damage. Another reminder, you may want to harvest any fruit before the freeze. Some citrus with thick rinds such as pummelos can handle more cold. If the fruit has soft spots, it probably cannot be saved. Remember that you can freeze freshly squeezed citrus juices. If the fruit is bad, it is best to remove it by hand. If the leaves curl up slightly, they may grow out in warmer weather. Curling and drooping is not a good sign. If most of the dead foliage drops after the cold snap, the tree might make it. I was lucky last year. After the freezes and snow last year, my tree produced fruit on ¾ of the tree. It is four years old though. Young trees under two may not survive. You can always try the “scratch test.” Scrape the bark lightly to look for green wood. Work down the branches and along the trunk if necessary. The picture which shows major leaf damage passed the scratch test, but it might skip producing a year.

Keeping mature pecan trees safe during the winter is slightly different. According to the aggie horticulture website, young pecan trees can suffer freeze damage if they are fertilized after June. Young trees should be watered less frequently beginning in late August and September. If the tree is mature and has a crop, it should be watered every six to seven weeks beginning in the fall if rain is scarce. Adequate and even watering has the largest effect on nut quality. Adequate watering during the first two weeks of September is essential since this can affect the nut filling stage. Remember to water adequately before predicted freezes.

Choose a nut variety appropriate for your growing zone. Large pecan nuts require extra care. Remember that if a variety does not ripen before the first early freeze then the nuts will adhere to the shuck. Birds and squirrels are more likely to attack pecans that mature early.

Texas pecans ripen from October through the first week of December. How do you decide if the pecan is ripe? The pecan meat breaks easily when it is bent. A variety of factors can change the harvest period. The trees’ health, the variety and environmental circumstances all play a role in nut development. Allowing pecans to lay on wet ground has a huge impact on nut quality. Young trees are impacted most by low cold temperatures. The bark may actually separate from the wood or the bark may develop longitudinal splits. Trees in low areas are affected the most.

cont’d on pg. 8
Herb of the Month - Bay Laurel (*Laurus Nobilis*)

by Karen McGowan, Master Gardener

As fall approaches, providing a respite from the heat and opportunity for rooting, it is a great time to plan tree planting and care. With the coming cooler months in mind, October’s herb of the month is bay laurel (*Laurus Nobilis*), frequently known as “sweet laurel.”

Bay laurel is an evergreen shrub or tree in warmer zones, such as south Texas. With thick, glossy green thick leaves, bay laurel makes a great plant for containers, or in the garden.

Native to the Mediterranean region, bay laurel is now widely cultivated throughout the world. In ancient Greece, the wreath of honor placed upon the head of heroes was created from the leaves and branches of laurel. Even today, the leaves are used to make crowns for those graduating from college, as synonymous with great honor and recognition. The phrase “resting on one’s laurels” originates in ancient Greece, where laurel wreaths were symbols of victory and status. Of course, ancient Greece is where history and mythology were frequently mixed, so we need to tread carefully. The pre-Christian Greeks associated their god Apollo with laurel – this much is historical fact, as the image of Apollo wearing a laurel wreath on a 2nd century BC coin indicates. The reason for that association takes us into the myth of Apollo’s love for the nymph Daphne, who turned into a Bay tree just as Apollo approached her (anything could happen if you were a Greek god). Undeterred, Apollo embraced the tree, cut off a branch to wear as a wreath and declared the plant sacred. Their belief in the myth caused the Greeks to present laurel wreaths to winners in the Pythian Games, which were held at Delphi in honor of Apollo every four years from the 6th century BC. But enough about the storied history of this pretty herb.

Depending upon its placement and region of planting, bay laurel grows anywhere from twenty to sixty feet tall. The stiff, alternate, oval leaves are leathery and three to four inches long. Bay laurel boasts inconspicuous flowers that are yellow or greenish-white, and the fruit is a green, purplish, or black berry that bears a single seed. Propagation from seed can prove quite difficult, and doing so from cuttings is therefore recommended. Take the cuttings now, cutting six to eight stem sections from a healthy bay laurel shrub. Strip the leaves from the cuttings, except the top two leaves. Dip the bay laurel cuttings into a liquid rooting hormone, according to the directions on the package for semi-hardwood cuttings. Mix equal parts of potting soil, sand and vermiculite in a bucket. Moisten the soil mixture and incorporate the water throughout the entire medium, and fill a growing tray with the planting medium.

Bay laurel tree

Citations:

http://extension.illinois.edu/herbs/bay-laurel.cfm

cont’d on pg. 6
Bay Laurel, *cont’d from pg. 5*

Stick the bottom 3 inches of the bay laurel cuttings into the growing medium. Space the cuttings so no leaves are touching. Firm the soil around the cuttings and water the cuttings to settle the soil around the stems. Place the cover on the tray. If a cover is not available, slide the entire tray into a clear plastic bag. Seal the lid or bag to create a humid environment for the cuttings. Place the cuttings on a heat mat in a bright location that is out of the way of direct sunlight. Set the heat mat temperature to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Monitor the cuttings daily to check for mold growth or wilted cuttings. Remove any that are dead or suffering from mold growth. Water the tray whenever the first half-inch layer of soil becomes dry. Check the cuttings once a month to determine if roots are growing. You may see top growth develop, but this is not a sign of root development. Tug gently on the cuttings to feel for resistance. When the cuttings fight the tug, the roots are growing. Once the roots reach about 1 inch long, transplant the new plants into separate containers. Continue growing indoors throughout the winter.

Outdoors, place the plant in a full sun location and water when the soil starts to become dry. Do not keep the soil too moist as that invites root rot and bay prefers to grow in soil kept on the dry side. Apply a general purpose liquid fertilizer about every 2 weeks during the growing season. Before frost, move the plant indoors. Place the plant in as bright a location as possible. Water as needed, but do not overwater. Fertilizing will be dramatically reduced as bay tends not to grow very much during the winter months. When spring arrives, plants can be moved back outdoors and a regular fertilizer schedule can be resumed. Occasional pruning will maintain a desirable shape.

Leaves can be harvested throughout the season as needed. The larger, older leaves tend to have the strongest and best flavor. Dry leaves before storing in sealed containers. The dried leaves make excellent flavoring for soups and stews, and are one of the primary ingredients in “bouquet garni.” Seen often in classic, savory recipes, bouquet garni is the French term for a flavor-dense herb combination. This herb mixture, typically wrapped in cheesecloth and tied with string for easy retrieval at the end of cooking, always consists of a bay leaf, a sprig or big pinch of leaf thyme and some stems of fresh parsley (save the parsley leaves for garnish). Plant bay laurel now and enjoy this beautiful herb throughout the year!
Plant of the Month - Desert Museum Paloverde (also Palo Verde) *Cercidium x. ‘Desert Museum’*

*by Beth Braun, Master Gardener*

They first caught my eye in the front yard of a corner house: trees with smooth green bark and small filigree leaves. In the spring the trees were covered in bright yellow blooms. They grew quickly, yet the beautiful house and surrounding landscaping were visible through the airy branches that cast a light shade.

The same trees appeared a few years ago in the new parking lot at Hermann Park’s Centennial Garden. Rows and rows of them, in fact. What were they? And then, several months ago when I met with an architect about a project, the subject of landscaping came up. This was outside the mandate of his work, but as it happened, the architect is a big fan of landscape design and hands-on gardening. He recommended a paloverde for the courtyard: “You know, the trees in the best parking lot in town over at Hermann Park”. There is was; the tree was finally identified.

There are a variety of paloverdes (meaning green stick) native to Texas and the Southwest. The Blue paloverde is a spiny small tree that’s leafless most of the year. In their place, the blue-green trunk, branches and twigs—full of chlorophyll—perform photosynthesis. The Texas paloverde (aka Border paloverde) is a thorny shrub to small tree with similar characteristics. According to Texas A&M’s AgriLife Extension website on range plants¹, the Texas paloverde’s leaves are browsed by a variety of mammals from white-tailed deer to jackrabbits; the seeds (legumes) are browsed by deer and feral hogs, kangaroo rats, birds and cattle; and the flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Peter Blanchette, Landscape Horticulture Manager for Hermann Park Conservancy, identified the parking lot specimens as the thornless Desert Museum paloverde. Its name refers to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, where in 1979 Mark Dimmitt, then curator of botany, identified this naturally-occurring hybrid of Mexican, Blue and Foothill paloverdes through genetic and phenotypic analysis. In an interview he gave to an L.A. Times writer in 2011, he said that bees are its only pollinator and he was unsure whether the Desert Museum is self-pollinating since it tends to grow in multiples whether in the wild or in a planned landscape. For a delightful profile on Mark Dimmitt, read “Meet the obsessive botanist who became king of rare specimens” at https://www.theguardian.com/global/2015/apr/18/plant-king-botanist-mark-dimmitt-rare-specimens

The Desert Museum paloverde is a fast grower with an upright habit of 25 feet or more in height. Those at Hermann Park have had several rounds of pruning and shaping to lift the lower branches above the parked cars. The main trunks have taken on a slightly rough, brown texture with a green underlay, but the younger branches sport smooth green bark. The Desert Museum has larger flowers and longer spring blooming season than other paloverdes, and may re-bloom in the summer with additional water.

What else can be said about this winsome tree? It’s Arizona’s state tree, for one. An online article in Tucson Life says the legumes can be eaten raw when the pods are still green and tender, or sprouted when they’re dry. The flowers are edible too.

*cont’d on pg. 11*
During freezes, pecan trees can get a second chance. Since each pecan node has more than one bud (three to be exact), it may still be possible to get a pecan crop. The state location and the tree’s position can be determining factors in freezing conditions. If the temperature is 28 degrees or lower new foliate will be burnt off. In severe frosts lower and top branches may be most affected. Foliar zinc sprays can help trees recuperate.

In Texas we call some cold snaps “blue northers.” The correct term is advective freeze and these can cause severe damage to trees and plants. Methods to shield trees from damage can include covering the tree (again – those Christmas lights), planting your tree against a building or you can also place containers of water around the trees. Sheets, blankets, or other frost blankets may also be used. Sheets may provide the least protection, but when they are all you have on hand, then use them. You can also use cardboard and duct tape. Consider sacrificing some annuals in pots by placing them around taller tree trunks.

One semi-permanent cover for all types of trees and plants can be improvised from short rebar pieces, ½ to 1’PVC pipe and sheeting. Drive the rebar pieces into the ground to form a square around the tree or plants, slide the PVC pipe over the rebar to make a hoop, then cover with plastic or some other type of cover. Once the freeze is over, remove the cover.

Now is the time to start thinking about preparing your trees and plants for winter. If you wait until the last minute, stores will sell out of the items quickly. Begin now to protect your investments. The websites below can provide more information:

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/homefruit/pecan/pecan.html
https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/2003/jun03/art4jun.html

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Best Southern Pecan Pie

1 9” pie shell  
1 cup sugar  
¾ cup Karo (light)  
1 stick butter  
3 eggs, beaten (must be at room temperature).  
1 ¾ cup pecans  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
1/8 tsp. salt

Blend sugar, syrup, & butter in saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture comes to a boil. Blend hot mixture SLOWLY in beaten eggs while whisking constantly or eggs will curdle. Stir in pecans, extract, and salt. Pour into pie shell. Bake in 375 degree oven for about 30 minutes. (For deep dish pie, use 2 cups pecans).
Urban Gardening Certificate Program

Please join us for a six-part educational series

Topics to include:

- Vegetable Gardening 101
- Economic Benefits of Gardening
- Importance of Composting
- Good Bugs vs. Bad Bugs
- Vegetable Gardening in the Fall
- Creating Healthy Soil

September 28th
October 5th
October 12th
October 19th
October 26th
November 2nd

Certificate Presentation will be held on November 16th

NOTE: Participants MUST attend ALL six (6) classes to receive certificate

WHERE: Alice Young Library, 5107 Griggs RD, Houston, TX 77021

WHEN: Friday's, 1:00-3:00 pm
September 28th, October 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, Nov. 2nd

CONTACT: Ute Schaefer (713) 274-0950
Email: Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu

Follow us @pvamucahs

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

in partnership with

Hermann Park Conservancy & Harris County Master Gardeners

are please to present

Master Gardeners in the City
at McGovern Centennial Gardens

Saturday, October 13th & 27th
McGovern Centennial Gardens at Hermann Park
1500 Hermann Drive
Houston, Texas 77004

Events include garden tours and children activities.

These educational programs are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.
Desert Museum Paloverde, cont’d from pg. 7

In its native dry habitat, irrigation is placed away from the trunk to encourage a wide-spreading root system. In our region, plant the trees in full sun in well-draining soil, avoiding areas where water pools. Thin out the branches periodically with an eye toward reinforcing its structure and open form. You’ll want to do this after the spring blooming season has tapered off. Take no more than 30% of the canopy during the summer, as this can cause the bark to burn. The Desert Museum paloverde tolerates a wide temperature range, from the mid-teens to the summer heat of the Southwest.

1 https://rangeplants.tamu.edu/plant/texas-paloverde/

For more information and registration: https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2636
Ask a Master Gardener

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

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

**Oct 5-6** Fall Plant Sale Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Rd, Cypress

**Oct 6** Urban Harvest Farmers Market 3401 Westheimer Road, Houston

**Oct 6** Garden Oaks/Heights Farmers Market 938 Wakefield, Houston

**Oct 6** Mercer Garden Pollinator Festival 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble

**Oct 12-13** St John the Divine Bulb Sale 2450 River Oaks Blvd Houston

**Oct 18** Westchase Farmers Market 10503 Westheimer Rd Houston

**Oct 21** Town Lake Farmers Market 9955 Barker Cypress Rd, Cypress

**Oct 27** Memorial Villages Farmers Market 10840 Beinhorn Rd, Houston
Treating Crape Myrtles for CMBS

by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

Earlier this month the Agrilife Extension Service in Dallas released a video featuring Dr Mike Merchant as he shows gardeners how to treat crape myrtle trees for crape myrtle bark scale, also referred to as CMBS. Found in north Texas in 2004, CMBS had not been seen recently in the southern U.S. The small sap feeding insect is white and likes the bark of crape myrtle tees. The scale leaves a sweet excrement on crape myrtles. The leaves become sticky and the tree trunks become black instead of golden. It affects the number and quality of blooms as well. A video for treating CMBS can be viewed at https://tinyurl.com/merchantbarkscale.

Texas gardeners who suspect their crape myrtle has CMBS can help track the distribution of this invasive insect by taking a picture and sending it to https://www.eddmaps.org/. CMBS is expected to spread so please monitor your crape myrtles. The infestation can be treated. The sooner you spot it, the better your outcome.
Gary Zill and his Mangos

by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

One of my Facebook pages is a group called the Texas Fruiting Plant Growers (Texas Rare Fruit Growers). It is a site for fruit and nut growers. If you are fond of fruit, check out this site. The site has growing advice, grafting tips and photos. There are also tastings offered occasionally for members. One very active member is Theme Linh. She posts several photos of tropical fruits and has a green house to store them in for winter. I have borrowed several of her mango photos as well as some of another member of the group, Mark Nichols. The Gary Zill video was originally posted by Edward Self, an admin of the site. It tells Gary’s story of his search and relentless breeding efforts for new mango varieties.

Located in Florida, Gary Zill is a nursery owner who began his mango variety development project after a mango conference in Miami. He learned new varieties were being developed by Australian mango growers. The new varieties which were being developed had a unique smell and were full of flavor. The aroma was noticeable in young seedlings. He favored a Gary mango,
Gary Zill and his Mangos, cont'd from pg. 14

but it was too small. A good aroma is a key characteristic buyers look for in mangos. In the early 90's, Gary Zill began his mango project in earnest.

Gary felt the mango market had too many mango varieties which were not up to par aside from their scent. For nearly 20 years, Gary planted mango seeds. Over one summer he planted about 3,000 seeds. Seedlings without a pleasant aroma were immediately rejected. He did this for three summers. After three years he had planted more than 10,000 seeds. He narrowed this down to 1,000 plants to put in a grove. Out of these, he chose 20-30 varieties he thought were good candidates. Some had an aroma similar to a Pettigrew mango which was no longer grown because it did not ripen evenly, but it had a good flavor. He selected others which had different scents. When the trees bore fruit, Gary picked at least a bushel of mangos daily and spent the evening tasting and writing detailed notes about each tree. He admits four or five varieties had a foul taste. Small varieties and varieties that lacked flavor were weeded out. Those that passed the test were grafted onto other trees. Some trees never fruited. He ended up with 23 varieties. Some of those were eliminated and he had 20. Sweet Tart, Orange Sherbert, Ugly Betty and Pineapple Pleasure are a few of the varieties he developed after much trial and error. Several of his varieties are named after family members.

The next time you pick up a mango from the store, you may think of all the time it took for someone to develop that mango. YouTube has a Gary Zill video if you want to hear his tale personally. The link is https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Gz2kb6ihZ4&t=23s

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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, October 14th 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.

Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX 77433
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.
# Gardening Tools

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

## Vegetable Garden Planting Dates for Harris County

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<td><strong>Cabbage - Chinese (transplants)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lettuce - also Arugula, Arca, Sorrel</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Melons - Cantaloupe, Honeydew</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Peas - English &amp; Snap</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Potato - Irish cut pieces</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Potato - Sweet slips</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Summer Greens - Malabar, Amaranth</strong></td>
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Plants grown over winter may require protection during freezing weather. Seeds and transplants started in the heat of summer will benefit from shading during establishment.
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. You can add the HCMG site to your account and easily share information with others. This is a definite timesaving device for these busy gardeners and helps promote our organization.

www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners
www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyHorticulture

October Green Thumb Gardening Series

Trees: Planting and Care (includes fruit trees)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>Barbara Bush Library</td>
<td>6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Spring Branch Memorial Library</td>
<td>6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Freeman Branch Library</td>
<td>6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Maude Smith Marks Library</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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