

# Urban Dirt

Fall Vegetables!

Gardening Events and Information for Texans

## Fall Gardening

by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

Getting ready to plant your fall garden? Now is the time to start planning for cool weather crops. Some of you are receiving seed catalogs already for fall crops. If you have good success with seeds, then use that method. Generally, though, for fall garden crops transplants work best. When choosing transplants, buy BIG. Select large transplants. They have larger root systems and should produce quickly. If you buy smaller transplants, you can boost them up by adding slow release fertilizer pellets to the soil and follow up with a water-soluble fertilizer. Most vegetables will need eight hours of sun and good drainage. They may need sun protection from our blistering Texas heat after 3 p.m.



Photo courtesy VictoriaAdvocate.com

Transplants also need adequate water. Those in peat pots or cell packs may need daily water watering, but be careful not to overwater.

Fall crops are divided into two categories: short-term and long-term crops. Plant “like with like”. Once they are killed by the cold, short-term tender vegetables can be pulled. Long-term freeze tolerant plants will remain. Certain vegetable varieties

perform well in Texas. If you have had good luck with other or any new varieties then continue with what works well for you.

Remember that you can grow fall tomatoes but you will have the best success with cherry tomatoes. Don’t forget to double

check your supplies. Do you have enough frost cloth to protect your plants? What kind of condition are your tools in? Will you have to shovel snow or mulch? Do you have adequate space indoors or in a greenhouse for tender plants? Wind damage can also harm your crops. If you cover your plants check on their pollination requirements. Most tomatoes, peppers and eggplants are self pollinated.

Finally, be aware of the recommended planting

dates for your fall vegetable garden in your area. The planting dates will vary between different vegetables. A list of freeze susceptible and freeze tolerant vegetables is listed at <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/gardening-landscaping/fall-vegetable-gardening-guide-for-texas/>. This website also has a table of suggested vegetable varieties as well. Good luck with your Fall vegetable garden



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# Upcoming Events

## August 2019

### Green Thumb Gardening Series

#### Fall Vegetables

**Aug. 8,** Barbara Bush Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Aug. 15,** Freeman Branch Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Aug. 17,** Maude Smith Marks Library, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Aug. 20,** Spring Branch Memorial Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

### Open Garden Day

**Aug. 19,** 8:30 - 11:00 a.m., Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. *Plants for sale in the Greenhouse*

**Aug. 27,** 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Weekley Community Center - **Registration required by Sunday, August 25th to:**

[ogd.harrishort@gmail.com](mailto:ogd.harrishort@gmail.com). Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Rd., Cypress, TX

### Master Gardener Lecture Series

**Aug. 8, GFG Second Thursday** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. *Form Dictating Function: An Intimate Look at Plant Parts* by Brandi Keller, Harris County Master Gardener Program Coordinator. Genoa Friendship Gardens Education Center building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd.

## September 2019

### Green Thumb Gardening Series

#### Open Forum: Bring Your Questions

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

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

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

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

### Open Garden Day

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

### Master Gardener Lecture Series

**Sept. 12, GFG Second Thursday** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. *Fall Vegetable Gardening* by Mary Demeny, Galveston Master Gardener. Genoa Friendship Gardens Education Center building, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd.

### Greater Houston Plant Conference

**Sept. 6,** 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Richard & Meg Weekley Community Center, 8440 Greenhouse Road, Cypress, TX 77433  
Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/greater-houston-plant-conference-tickets-66346214313?aff=erelexpmit>  
Tickets: \$35.00

## Have Garden Questions?

Email your questions and photos to: [phone hcmga@gmail.com](mailto:hcmga@gmail.com) or  
Call us Monday – Friday 9:00 am to Noon at 713-274-0950

Visit [txmg.org](http://txmg.org) or contact the Harris County Extension Office, 713-274-0950, [coordinator.harrishort@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.harrishort@gmail.com) for information.



### It's that time of year!

As you all know, we are in hurricane season until November 30th. Hopefully, storms will bypass our area this year. But, to make sure you and your families are prepared for an event, check out <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php>.

# Herb of the Month - Fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*)

by Karen McGowan, Master Gardener

Occasionally, a month's featured herb is selected based purely upon intellectual curiosity, due simply to the fact that I have no experience with it in any realm; gardening, wellness usage, nor culinary. Such is the case for August's Herb of the Month, fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*). A longtime fan of Indian cuisine, I have noticed that it is frequently tapped, and often wondered about its background and properties. Here's what I discovered while researching fenugreek for this month's article:

According to various academic sources references to fenugreek are found as early as 1500 B.C. recorded on Egyptian papyrus, and its seeds were found in Tutankhamun's tomb. An annual herb, fenugreek is a member of the pea family. Fenugreek's English name is derived from two Latin words meaning "Greek hay." Fenugreek is an annual plant that reaches mature heights of two to three feet tall, possessing a strong odor akin to maple syrup, and sports small, pale yellow flowers. The seed of the fenugreek plant contains many active compounds with pharmaceutical applications, the latter including alleged relief of digestive problems, gout, erectile dysfunction and eczema. Women have for centuries tapped fenugreek both to induce childbirth and promote milk production in breast feeding. In multiple trials, fenugreek has been shown to decrease blood glucose and cholesterol. The powdered seed, available as capsules, is high in soluble fiber that slows the absorption of sugars in the stomach, while the presence of the amino acid 4-hydroxyisoleucine may help to stimulate insulin production.

Initially, I assumed that because I had not used in a culinary application anything labeled "fenugreek," I did not have experience with the herb; however, research for this article revealed that, in fact, it has been in residency within my spice drawer for quite some time. Along with black and white



peppercorns, cloves, cinnamon (or cassia bark), mace, black and green cardamom pods, curry leaf, cumin and coriander, fenugreek is one of the traditional ingredients in the spice labeled "Garam Masala," a unique blend frequently used in Indian cuisine (for the foodies out there: If you haven't yet checked out Garam Masala, I recommend test-driving a recipe that uses it).

Although, according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, "(t) here isn't enough scientific evidence to support the use of fenugreek for any health condition," many studies do in fact point to fenugreek's documented ability to "control blood sugar in both insulin-dependent (type 1) and noninsulin-dependent (type 2) diabetics." Further, "(s)ome studies also show that serum cholesterol levels in diabetics, and perhaps in others, are reduced by fenugreek." The usage levels indicated for these vary widely and should be prescribed and closely monitored only by authorized medical personnel. Interestingly, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cautions against the use of fenugreek while pregnant, as it may affect uterine contractions, a warning that seems to support fenugreek's ancient historical usage of inducing childbirth.

It is unlikely that there is anything within this article that surprises experienced herbalists. While I consider myself somewhat informed in regard to herbs' multi-faceted aspects, fenugreek's came as a surprise! I hope you have enjoyed learning a bit about fenugreek, as I have. Cheers to a joyous end to summer 2019!



Fenugreek seeds

#### References:

<https://nccih.nih.gov/health/fenugreek>  
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/plants-and-animals/plants/plants/fenugreek>  
<https://www.rd.com/food/fun/fenugreek-benefits/>

# Plant of the Month - Chinese Fringe Flower, Chinese Witch Hazel, Pink Fringe Flower (*Loropetalum chinense*)

lor-oh-PET-al-um

*loron*: Greek for thong, strap <sup>1</sup>

*petalon*: leaf or petal, referring to the narrow flower petals

by Beth Braun, Master Gardener

The long, curved row of matching potted plants just inside the Houston Zoo entrance is eye catching. From a distance it's hard to tell what they are—flowers or shrubs? This plant lover had to know. The form of the small shrubs definitely looked like *Loropetalum*, but the variegated leaves were wild. A quick online search identified them as Jazz Hands Variegated®, a Proven Winners® selection, another name for the plant.

*Loropetalum* is a genus in the witch-hazel family, and is native to China, Japan, and south-eastern Asia. They've literally taken root in landscapes all over the South thanks to their colors, sizes, and ease of care. To quote a garden writer, "Seemingly a bit of a floozy in the springtime, it calms down for the rest of the year

and blends into the landscape like a respectable garden citizen".<sup>2</sup> The "floozy" descriptor is earned by its showy, fringe-like flowers, which explains its common names. Sad to say, most of the flowers are sacrificed when *Loropetalum* are clipped into pristine hedges as they are in most landscapes.



Photo courtesy WaterUniversity.tamu.edu



Photo courtesy pcmg-texas.org

Small cultivars like Purple Pixie (a weeping form) and Shang-lo top out at 18"-24" and can be used as a ground cover or in mixed pots. Hines Purpleleaf can reach 8' in height, and Zhuzhou

Fuchsia will grow up to 12' or more. You'll see taller *Loropetalum* shaped into small multi-trunked trees in the Japanese Garden at Hermann Park. Buyer beware: Pay special attention to a variety's size at maturity before buying and planting *Loropetalum* so there are no regrets later on.

The dark purple-to-burgundy leaves of Pixie, Diamond, Daydream, Prince, and Majesty offer strong garden accents planted en masse or as specimens. It's hard to go wrong, whether you repeat the foliage color elsewhere in the garden, or plant them with contrasting and/or lighter foliage or blooms of almost any hue. To show variegated cultivars at their best, tone down and simplify the color scheme of surrounding plants. If you're not into pink, fuchsia, magenta or red blooms,

consider one of the green leaved, white-blooming varieties like Emerald Snow® (2' – 3' tall), Jazz Hands Dwarf White® (1' – 3') or Carolina Moonlight™ (5' – 6' tall).

An added color bonus with *Loropetalums* is the brighter foliage of new growth. With some varieties cooler weather brings on brighter foliage. *Loropetalums* do well in conditions that suit azaleas—moist, slightly acidic and well-drained soil—but appreciate more sun and can be quite drought tolerant once established. Suitable for zones 7 – 10, *Loropetalums* are virtually disease and pest free. It's a plant that stands up to the mow-and-blow-and-go practices of professional yard crews.

*Loropetalum* are generally slow growing plants, so be patient after planting your selection. For a more natural look that accents its weeping or arching growth habits, shape it lightly and occasionally to your liking.

<sup>1</sup> Dave's Garden website, <https://davesgarden.com>

<sup>2</sup> Marie Harrison writing for Dave's Garden, November 2016

# The Ideal Garlic Planting Time

by Terri Simon, Master Gardener

Speaking of fall vegetable gardening, now is the time to start looking for garlic bulbs. In my area they need to be planted from late October through November. Garlic is probably the seasoning I use the most. It is included in many Hispanic dishes but many cultures around the world use garlic in their cuisine.

Garlic has been used for more than 5,000 years. We use it as a seasoning but throughout time it has had a variety of uses: food, magic concoctions, medicine, etc. At different times it could keep witches away, was used as currency and could help cure numerous illnesses and conditions. Today, garlic usage has tripled since the 1990's.

There are two main types of garlic, hardneck and softneck. Softneck garlic does best in our area. Softnecks usually have a larger bulb and some have eight to twenty cloves per bulb. Some varieties may have thirty cloves per bulb. Generally softneck garlic has a milder flavor than hardneck garlic.

California White and California Early are two softneck varieties that do well in our area. You may have other softneck varieties that work well for you. This year I want to try Inchelium Red Softneck. It's supposed to store well and I like the color. I may be able to score a different type of softneck at Whole Foods, as they carry organic garlic. Once you have your garlic bulbs, from late October through November plant large cloves 5" deep in a pre-fertilized bed. Garlic has shallow roots so keep them watered, but do not overwater. Cut back on watering when they mature. They are ready to harvest when leaves turn yellow and fall over, approximately nine months after planting. If dried and stored properly, garlic can last up to nine months. One of my favorite ways to use garlic is to roast it. A recipe I use is



Photo courtesy territorialseed.com

from [thekitchen.com](http://thekitchen.com). That recipe is at the end of this article. Roasted garlic is good for two weeks. I have often given it as a gourmet gift. Put the clove in a small attractive jar and write the expiration date on the jar or a label. Wrap the jar in tulle, add a ribbon and voila! Who doesn't appreciate a delicious home made present?

*cont'd on pg. 6*

## The Ideal Garlic Planting Time, *cont'd from pg. 5*

### How To Roast Garlic in the Oven

#### Ingredients

- 1 or more heads of garlic
- Olive oil

#### Instructions

1. **Heat the oven to 400°F:** Set a rack in the middle position.
2. **Peel (most of) the paper off the garlic:** Use your fingers to peel away all the loose, papery, outer layers around the head of garlic. Leave the head itself intact with all the cloves connected.
3. **Trim the top off the head of garlic:** Trim about 1/4 inch off the top of the head of garlic to expose the tops of the garlic cloves.
4. **Drizzle with olive oil:** Drizzle 1 to 2 teaspoons of olive oil over the exposed surface of the garlic, letting the oil sink down into the cloves.
5. **Wrap in foil and bake:** Wrap the garlic in aluminum foil and roast in the oven for 40 minutes.
6. **Begin checking the garlic:** After 40 minutes, begin checking the garlic. The garlic is done when a center clove is completely soft when pierced with a paring knife. Even once soft, you can continue roasting until deeply golden for a more caramelized flavor — check the garlic every 10 minutes. Exact roasting time will depend on the size of your garlic, the variety, and its age.
7. **Use or store the garlic:** Let the garlic cool slightly, and then serve. Press on the bottom of a clove to push it out of its paper. Roasted garlic can also be refrigerated for up to 2 weeks or frozen for up to 3 months.

#### Ways to use Roasted Garlic

- Spread on bread or crackers
- Mashed into salad dressing
- Mashed into hummus, baba ganoush, or other spreads
- Used in place of raw garlic in soups, casseroles, and sauces
- Add crushed clove to mashed potatoes.



*Photo from farm6.static.flickr.com*

*Recipe from thekitchn.com*

# Skeeter Beaters: Top 3 Natural Ways to Take the Sting out of Summer

By Becky Lowicki, Harris County Master Gardener

With the heat of summer and tropical showers of hurricane season comes the best breeding combination for everyone’s favorite patio pest—the mosquito!

Comprised of a group of about 3,500 species of small insects that are actually flies or “tiny gnats” within the order Diptera, the mosquito represents one of the most relentless insects on the planet.

For backyard gardeners, while there are a plethora of chemicals, best practices and sage advice to combat these flying foils, there are several quick and easy natural methods to also consider:

- 1) **Citronella, Citronella, Citronella** - did you know that the active ingredient in a host of garden-variety mosquito repellants is commonly available to you in the purest sense as the Citronella plant? And yes, while the debate ensues about effectiveness, truth be told, this plant has promise in that even just crushing the leaves and rubbing them against the skin seems to activate the lemon aroma that has been known to reduce the number of bites per square inch of skin, at least in my nonscientific experience as a bona fide mosquito magnet.



Citronella “mosquito plant” in bloom

Photo by Becky Lowicki

**Fast facts**

**Light requirements:** Part shade for perennial in zones 9-11

**Planting:** Space 18 to 24 inches apart

**Soil requirement:** Although the plant prefers rich, moist soil, it grows in a range of soil types.

**Water use:** Keep soil moist after planting. Once established planting beds should survive on rainfall. In containers, plants need irrigation whenever the soil is dry.

**Harvesting:** Pick the plant leaves at any point in the growing season by gathering individual leaves or leafy stems.

**Storage:** Fresh leaves or stems keep in water five to seven days.

- 2) **Beautyberry, Callicarpa Americana**

A terrific native shrub that grows well as an understory with long, arching form, the vibrant purple berry clusters are a food source for birds and the crushed leaves rubbed gently on the skin are a known repellant for mosquitoes.



Photo courtesy Texas AgriLife

**Fast facts**

**Light requirement:** Part Shade

**Soil requirement:** Moist

**Water use:** Low

**Cold & heat tolerant:** yes

cont'd on pg. 8

## Skeeter Beaters, *cont'd from pg. 7*

**Soil Description:** Moist, rich soils, Sandy, Sandy Loam, Medium Loam, Clay Loam, Clay, Acid-based, Calcareous

**Conditions Comments:** Typically 3-6 feet height and width with a naturally loose and graceful arching form. In the fall and early winter, the branches are laden with magenta purple (sometimes white) berry clusters that look spectacular as the leaves drop in autumn. It is useful as a screen in swampy or wooded locations or under shade trees in a garden setting. It can be cut to 12" above the base each winter to encourage more compact growth, flowers and fruit. It can also be left to mature naturally into a tall woody shrub. The shrub may temporarily defoliate and lose developing fruit during periods of prolonged summer drought.

- 3) **Garlic!**- Not eating it, but planting it in your garden has both a repellent effect as well as invites the aroma of a pizza parlor in your backyard, and that's amore! While I've literally just planted the clove in the ground to find it sprout days later, other factoids online point to the use of the derivative of the clove oil, which is often the common ingredient in many of the products.

### *Fast facts*

**Light requirements:** Full sun welcome!

**Planting:** Cloves are usually planted three-to-six inches apart.



Germinated garlic grown from cloves

Photo credit courtesy: <http://yagrein.blogspot.com>  
(Kenyan Youth Agriculture)

**Soil requirement:** Soil that is suitable for onions will generally produce good garlic. Soils that have high organic matter content are preferable to other types, since they hold moisture well and do not pack, preventing proper bulb expansion.

**Water use:** Garlic is shallow rooted, and deep cultivation should be avoided as the damage to the roots will reduce yields.

**Harvesting:** When the tops become partly dry and bend to the ground, garlic is usually ready for harvesting. The bulbs are usually pulled and gathered. Garlic is left in the garden for a week or more to dry (or cure) thoroughly. Storage: The bulbs must be thoroughly dried before storage within a wide range of temperatures.

Attributions and appreciation to the following references and photo credits, which provided good dirt for this article:

Citronella photo credit and plant care courtesy Bonnie Plants.  
[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=CAAM2](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=CAAM2)

“Repellency of two terpenoid compounds isolated from *Callicarpa americana* (Lamiaceae) against *Ixodes scapularis* and *Amblyomma americanum* ticks” John F. Carroll · Charles L. Cantrell · Jerome A. Klun · Matthew Kramer  
<https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/3122/CarrollEtAl2007.pdf>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Bexar County: Plant of the Week  
<https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/homehort/archives-of-weekly-articles-davids-plant-of-the-week/garlic/>

# News from the GFG Perennial and Okra Trials

by Carolyn Boyd, Harris County Master Gardener

Perennial trials continue at Genoa Friendship Gardens. Several cultivars of zinnias, marigolds and celosia have been added to the trial beds. Propagated from seed, the plantings have now bloomed into vivid color.



*Zesty White zinnias and Concertina Red celosia have been planted among petunias and phlox from the Fall perennial plantings.*



*Zesty Fuschia zinnias*



*Butterflies seem to love the Zesty White zinnias.*

The okra trials, consisting of 14 different cultivars, have begun producing fruit. The trial team currently harvests okra three times a week. Skip Richter, Harris County Extension agent running the trial, says production has just begun. Okra loves summer heat and will produce well into the fall.

The cultivars have pretty clever names, some being quite descriptive, as well. They are: Zeebest, Green Fingers, Jing, Baby Bubba, French Quarter Pink, French Quarter Red, Shows, Jambalaya, Jade, Clemson Spineless, Zahrah, Cajun Jewel and Bulldog. The only cultivar that did not germinate was Lee.



*A colorful sampling of a recent harvest*

# Open Garden Days at Genoa Friendship Gardens



The Perennial Trial



The Water Garden



The Greenhouse

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Harris County Master Gardeners invite you to join us

## ***Open Garden Days***

on the 3rd Monday of the month, March through October, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Admission to the Exhibit Gardens is free, and register at the Welcome Table to receive additional monthly notices for children and family events.

## **The Genoa Friendship Gardens**

is located at  
1202 Genoa Red Bluff Road  
Houston, Texas 77034

*To schedule a special event for your garden club, school or professional organization please contact us to make your arrangements.*

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

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### ***2019 Monthly Open Garden Days & Special Events***

<b>February 23</b>	<b>Fruit Tree Sale</b>	June 17	Open Garden Day
March 18	Open Garden Day	July 15	Open Garden Day
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Spring Plant Sale</b>	August 19	Open Garden Day
April 15	Open Garden Day	September 16	Open Garden Day
May 20	Open Garden Day	October 21	Open Garden Day

***Second Chance Sale*** bargains can be found in the Greenhouse after our February and March plant sales.

# Open Garden Days at The Weekley Community Center

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Harris County Master Gardeners  
invite you to join us for

## Open Garden Days

one Tuesday each month, January through November, 10:00 –11:00 a.m.

### Open Garden Day Activities

is located at 8440 Greenhouse Road, Houston, Texas 77433

*For information about upcoming topics, dates and registration, please email us at [ogd.harrishort@gmail.com](mailto:ogd.harrishort@gmail.com). Registration is required before each program.*

Children and their parents looking for hands-on ways to learn, create, and have fun inspire our Open Garden Day volunteers to offer programs that do just that.

This FREE monthly children’s event includes a variety of activities:

- Planting seeds, veggies or ornamentals into pots so children can continue to grow them at home.
- Creating a “nature theme” craft project with materials that are provided.
- 30-40 minute hands-on lesson that focuses on a single topic each month.

Previous lessons have included making a worm farm, putting together a compost bin, learning about the importance of butterflies, and making a feeder to attract pollinators.

#### Past projects



Seed Pod mobile



Fantasy Garden



Recycled soda bottle

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### 2019 Monthly Open Garden Days

<b>February 26</b>	<i>Registration required by Sun. Feb. 24</i>	<b>July (TBD)</b>	<i>Registration required</i>
<b>March 26</b>	<i>Registration required by Sun. Mar. 24.</i>	<b>August 27</b>	<i>Registration required by Sun. Aug. 25</i>
<b>April 16</b>	<i>Registration required by Sat. Apr. 13</i>	<b>Sept. 24</b>	<i>Registration required by Sun. Sept. 22</i>
<b>May 28</b>	<i>Registration required by Sun. May 26</i>	<b>October, November and December dates are TBA</b>	
<b>June 25</b>	<i>Registration required by Sat. June 22</i>	at this time.	

## 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 August we are going to be in the following locations!

- August 3 Urban Harvest** - 1st Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
3401 Westheimer Rd. (corner of Buffalo Spdwy. & Westheimer), Houston
- Garden Oaks/Heights** - 1st Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at The Farmstand,  
938 Wakefield, Houston
- August 10 Tomball** - 2nd Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 205 W. Main Street, Tomball, TX
- August 18 Town Lake** - 3rd Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 9955 Barker Cypress Rd.  
Cypress, TX
- August 15 Westchase** - 3rd Thursday, 3-7 p.m. at 10503 Westheimer Rd., Houston
- August 24 Memorial Villages** - 4th Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 10840 Beinhorn Rd.,  
Houston

Friday  
September 6, 2019  
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Richard & Meg Weekley  
Community Center  
8440 Greenhouse Road  
Cypress, TX 77433

Tickets: 35.00

## The 2019 Greater Houston Plant Conference

*This conference provides a great opportunity to learn about the latest new plants coming to market. Spend the day with industry experts learning about the newest landscape plants for the Gulf Coast.*

**REGISTER**



*Visit the Harris County Master Gardeners  
Facebook page for event details!*

*[www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners](http://www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners)*



**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

in partnership with

**Hermann Park Conservancy**

are pleased to present

**Master Gardeners in the City  
at McGovern Centennial Gardens**

**Saturday, August 10th & 24th**

**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.

# Gardening Tools

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

		<b>Vegetable Garden Planting Dates</b> for Harris County											Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service Harris County Office 713-274-0950 <a href="https://harris.agrilife.org/hort/">https://harris.agrilife.org/hort/</a>		
Planting times are for seeds unless otherwise noted		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
		<span style="color: green;">■</span> Ideal Planting Time <span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> Marginal Planting Time													
Artichoke	Dormant Crowns													Transplants	
Asparagus (dormant crowns)															
Beans - Snap & Lima (Butterbean)														Snap	
Beets															
Broccoli (transplants)															
Brussels Sprouts (transplants)															
Cabbage (transplants)															
Cabbage - Chinese (transplants)															
Carrots															
Cauliflower (transplants)															
Chard, Swiss															
Collards (transplants)															
Corn															
Cucumbers															
Eggplant (transplants)															
Garlic															
Kale (transplants)															
Kohlrabi (transplants)															
Leeks	Transplants													Seeds	
Lettuce - also Arugula, Mache, Sorrel															
Melon - Cantaloupe, Honeydew															
Mustard															
Okra															
Onion - bulbing	Transplants													Seeds	
Onion - multiplying/bunching															
Peas - English & Snap															
Peas - Southern															
Pepper (transplants)															
Potato - Irish (cut pieces)															
Potato - Sweet (slips)															
Pumpkin															
Radish															
Spinach															
Squash - Summer															
Squash - Winter															
Tomato															
Turnips															
Summer Greens - Malabar, Amaranth															
Watermelon															

Average Last Freeze Dates (Hobby 2/8, Bush 3/1)     ↑     ↑     Average First Freeze Dates (Bush 11/30, Hobby 12/20)     ↑     ↑  
 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.

Download the  
 Vegetable Garden  
 Planting Guide here!

# 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/](http://harris.agrilife.org/program-areas/hort/)

[hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

## Follow Us On Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

The Harris County Master Gardeners as well as Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Harris County Horticulture are actively participating on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram 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 definitely a timesaver for these busy garden days and helps promote our organization.



[www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners](http://www.facebook.com/HarrisCountyMasterGardeners)

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## Green Thumb Gardening Series

### *Fall Vegetables*

**August 8**

Barbara Bush Library

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**August 17**

Maude Smith Marks Library

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m

**August 15**

Freeman Branch Library

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**August 20**

Spring Branch Memorial Library

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.