



As the Garden Grows

*A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners
Gonzales, Texas February 2019, Volume 9, Issue 2*

Gonzales Master Gardeners SPRING PLANT SALE

MARCH 16, 2019

8:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

**Texas Heroes Square Downtown
GONZALES, TEXAS**

- ▶ Vegetables
- ▶ Herbs
- ▶ Annuals
- ▶ Citrus Trees
- ▶ Perennials/adaptive natives
- ▶ Roses
- ▶ Succulents
- ▶ Silent Auction
- ▶ Children's Booth
- ▶ Plant Give Away Drawing
- ▶ Plant information booth

Support our Community Projects
501 (c) (3) non profit
Texas A & M AgriLife Extension

The annual MG Spring Plant Sale is fast approaching. We are growing many plants for your shopping pleasure as well as purchasing many varieties from our wholesalers. There will be a wide assortment of beautiful vegetables plants available to choose for your spring garden. Tomatoes are always in demand and we will have many varieties on hand. In this newsletter, you will find all the information you need to know about growing tomatoes. Start planning and preparing your beds now!

We are growing a nice selection of roses for this year's sale. We will have a selection of Peggy Martin Roses, Lady Banks climbing rose, Belinda's Dream, Grandma's Yellow Rose/Nacogdoches rose and a few more. Read the following article about the Peggy Martin Rose. There will be a nice selection of Bougainvillea, spring annuals and citrus trees available. So....save the date-March 16. 2019

The “Peggy Martin Rose”



Photo by Dr. William C. Welch
www.plantanswers.com / aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

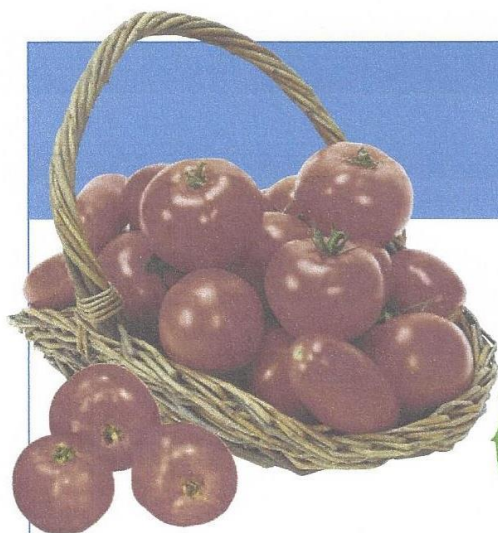
The Peggy Martin Rose is named after Peggy Martin who lived in Plaquemines Parish a few miles across the Mississippi River from the city of New Orleans. Mrs. Martin had gotten a rose cutting of this thornless climber in 1989 in New Orleans from her friend Ellen Dupriest who had gotten her cutting from her mother in law, Faye Dupriest who had gotten hers from a relative in New Orleans (a “pass-along plant”).

In August, 2005, Hurricane Katrina caused much destruction in Louisiana including Peggy Martin’s home. Her home and gardens were under 20 feet of salt water for two weeks. Upon her return the “Peggy Martin Rose” and a crinum lily were all that was left of her gardens. The rose is said to be a true survivor.

This deciduous climbing rose has a spreading form with medium to dark green foliage requiring full sun. The rose features showy clusters of fragrant pink flowers with white overtones and gold eyes along the branches from late spring to mid fall. It can grow to a height of 12-15 feet with a spread of 6-15 feet. It should be planted near a fence, trellis or other landscape structure where it can be trained to grow upwards on it, or allowed to trail off a retaining wall or slope. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years. It is disease resistant and extremely hardy requiring average water use. Fertilize in the spring before new growth begins. Space plants 3-5 feet apart. This woody vine will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard.



Photo by Dr. William C. Welch
www.plantanswers.com / aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu



Easy Gardening

ATOES • TOMATOES • TOMATOES • TOMATOES •

Joseph Masabni, Assistant Professor and Extension Horticulturist, The Texas A&M University System

Tomatoes are the most popular garden vegetable crop in Texas. They are a good source of vitamin A and fair source of vitamin C. Fresh tomatoes are popular in salads, on sandwiches and sliced. They can be cooked and used in many ways.

Varieties

Texas gardeners can grow a variety of small- and large-fruited tomatoes:

Small fruit

- Baxter's Early Bush
- Cherry Grande
- Red Cherry
- Juliet
- Small Fry

Large fruit

- Better Boy
- Big Box
- Carnival
- Homestead
- Big Beef
- Bush Beefsteak
- Celebrity

Site selection

Tomatoes grow well in most Texas areas if planted in soil that drains well. They need at least 6 hours of sunlight each day.

Soil preparation

Work the garden soil only when it is dry enough not to stick to the garden tools. Several weeks before planting, work the top 8 to 10 inches of soil. Remove all rocks and trash from the soil and rake it to break up large clods.

Tomatoes grow best in soils that have lots of organic matter. If possible, spread 2 to 3 inches of organic material such as compost, leaves, or rotted hay over the planting area. Mix this organic material into the top 4 to 6 inches of soil.

Planting

Most families need only a few plants, so it is best to buy plants and not grow them from seed. Buy healthy, green plants that are 6 to 8 inches tall.

Do not set out tomato plants until all danger of frost has passed. Transplant fall tomatoes in the garden about 100 days before the first expected frost.

If possible, set out tomatoes on raised

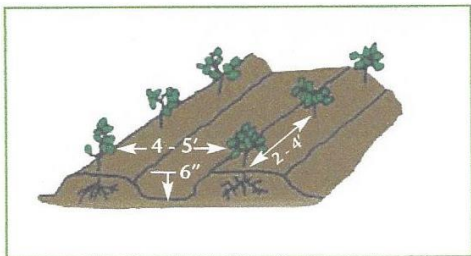


Figure 1. Plant tomatoes on beds raised to about 6 inches.

beds of soil that are about 6 inches high (Fig. 1). Make the transplant holes 3 to 4 inches deep and 2 to 4 feet apart in the row. For staked or caged plants, space the rows at least 3 feet apart. For unsupported plants, leave 4 to 5 feet between the rows.

Transplant your tomatoes in the evening or on a cloudy day to keep them from drying too much and wilting. Before placing transplants into the soil, fill the transplant holes with water and let it soak in.

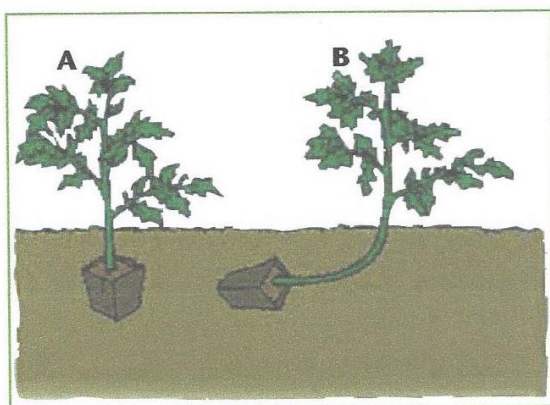


Figure 2. Plant tomatoes slightly deeper than they were first growing (A). If the plants are leggy, set them as shown (B).

Plant each transplant slightly deeper than it had been growing (Fig. 2). Pack the soil loosely around the plant. Leave a slightly sunken area around each plant to hold water.

If you plan to grow single plants, dig a hole 2 feet wide and 10 inches deep. Refill the hole with half soil and half organic matter. For this type of planting, mix 2 level tablespoons of fertilizer into this planting area.

Fertilizing

Add 2 to 3 pounds of fertilizer such as 10-10-10 for every 100 square feet of garden area. Spread the fertilizer evenly over the area, and then mix it into the top 3 to 4 inches of soil.

Watering

Water the tomato plants slowly and deeply to help them develop a strong root system. Do not let the tomatoes wilt severely, or yields and fruit quality will be low.

Care during the season

For the highest yields, place mulch around the tomato plants. Spread a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic material such as compost, leaves, or hay around the growing plants. Mulching will help stop weed growth and water loss from the soil.

You can let tomatoes grow on the ground or support them with stakes or cages. When you stake tomatoes, put the stake in shortly after transplanting to lessen root damage. A 6-foot-long

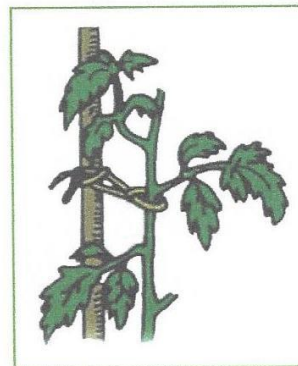


Figure 3. Loosely tie the tomato plants to support stakes.

stake set 10 inches deep in the soil will work well. As the plant grows taller, tie it loosely to the stake every 12 inches with pieces of rag or twine (Fig. 3).

Prune the staked tomatoes to produce a more orderly vine. Remove the small shoots that grow out of the point where each leaf joins the main stem

(Fig. 4). Remove the shoots by bending them sideways until they snap.

To develop the plant into two main vines, remove all but the lowest shoot. It will develop into a second branch.

Caging is another way to train tomato plants. You can make a good cage with a piece of concrete reinforcement wire 5 feet tall and 6 feet wide. Put the cages over the young plants. Push the cages down into the soil to keep them from blowing over. Using this method, you can give the vine

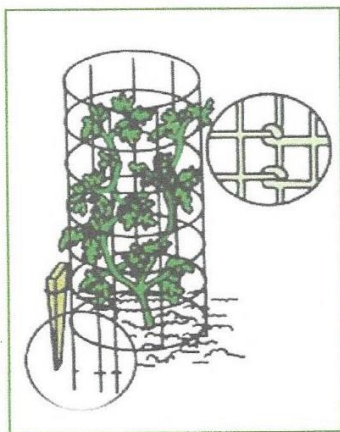


Figure 5. Cages made from reinforcing wire give good support to tomato plants.

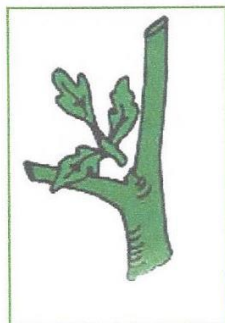


Figure 4. Prune tomatoes by removing the suckers or small side shoots.

support without having to tie it (Fig. 5).

Tomatoes growing in cages do not need to be pruned.

When the first fruits are about





1 inch in diameter, scatter 1 level tablespoon of fertilizer around each plant. Scatter it about 6 inches from the stalks. Work it lightly into the soil. Water the plants after fertilizing.

Fertilize the plants every 3 to 4 weeks with 1 to 2 level tablespoons of fertilizer.

To control weeds, you may cultivate or hoe around the plants. Work the soil only deep enough to kill the weeds but shallow enough not to damage the tomato plant roots.

Insects and diseases

Many insecticides are available at garden centers for homeowner use. Sevin is a synthetic insecticide; organic options include sulfur and Bt-based insecticides. Sul-

Name and description		Control
 Flea beetle	1/16 inch long; bronze-black, blue, or green, with light markings; jumps quickly; eats holes in leaves	Sevin
 Hornworm	A 3-inch-long caterpillar with a horn on the back end; green with stripes on the side	Bacillus thuringiensis (Dipel, Thuricide, Biotrol)
 Psyllid	1/8 inch long; pale green or yellow; adults are banded black and white	Sulfur dusts, permethrin, insecticidal soaps
 Whitefly	Adults are white; nymphs do not move	Pyrethrin, malathion, insecticidal soaps

fur also has fungicidal properties and helps in controlling many diseases. Neem oil, sulfur, and other fungicides are available for use.

Harvesting

For best quality, pick tomatoes at full color. If you pick them when they are pink,

let them ripen at room temperature. They may be stored in the refrigerator after they reach full color.

Acknowledgments

This publication was revised from earlier versions written by Sam Cotner, Professor Emeritus and former Extension Horticulturist.

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Check out <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable>
for more information on vegetables, fruit and nut trees and much more.

Second Grade Program

With Valentine's Day coming up on February 14, Master Gardeners worked with the second grade students from GISD on January 31, 2019 and demonstrated how paper is made. David DeMent explained that making paper has been around for several thousands of years. Without paper, we would not be able to learn how to read and write. The very excited group of students learned how to make card stock paper with a Valentine's theme using torn up paper towels soaked in water, a screen frame, a rolling pin and a few decorations. Once the card papers are dried, the students create a valentine message and give the card to someone special in their lives.







Lunch and Learn

Mark your calendars for a Lunch and Learn seminar scheduled for **Thursday, February 28, 2019** from noon until 1:00 pm. The event will held at PACE, 623 Fair Street next to Gonzales Elementary School. Gail Johnson will be talking about Composting and how to make it work for you. A free lunch will be served. Bring your best friend and enjoy a great time.

February Noon MG General Meeting

The next general meeting for GMG will be **Thursday, March 7, 2019**. Lunch will be provided by Nancy Swenson and Melissa Watson. Bring a door prize and find out what's happening.

Area Events

If you wish to see this information every month, someone is needed to compile the events and send them to Fran Saliger, Editor, by the 8th of the Month. Thanks

New Braunfels: The popular library speaker series will be available again in 2019. The New Braunfels Public Library, the Westside Community Center, the Mammen Family Library and Tye Preston Memorial Library will host the series. A number of Comal Master Gardeners have volunteered to speak on timely garden topics, and others have agreed to coordinate the talks with the four libraries.

The schedule for each month follows, except for the New Braunfels Public Library in November (conflicts with Thanksgiving):

- The Westside Community Center in New Braunfels on the **2nd Saturday from 10 to 11 am**
- Tye Preston on the **3rd Wednesday from noon to 1 pm**
- The Mammen Family Library on the **3rd Thursday from 10 to 11 am**
- New Braunfels Public Library on the **4th Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 pm.**

There will be no talks during the summer months of June, July, August and the end of the year in December.

Speakers and months for the talks are listed below:

- February - Lee Franzel on Vegetables
- March - Richard Vonder Embse and John Cruikshank on Drip Irrigation

- April - Patty Godfrey on Bees, Butterflies and Other Earthlings
- May - Kathleen Scott on Small Space Wildlife Gardening
- September - Gene Carnicom and Clare Helminiak on Medicinal Plants & Herbs
- October - Diane Jones on Propagation
- November - Mary Helen Phillips on Gardening with Children

Further information and reminders will be available throughout the year thanks to the newsletter, the e-minders and the library sites themselves. I hope you are as excited to come to these informative events as those involved are to offer them.

Seguin: Thursday, February 21, 2019 - 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Phytonutrient Gardening

Learn about growing -Rich Antioxidant-Dense Foods. Presented by Joe Urbach. Free. Everyone is welcome. AgriLife Extension Service, 210 East Live Oak St., Seguin, TX 78155

New Braunfels: March 8, 2019. 8:30 am to 4:00pm. Fee: \$55.00. DYNAMICS of the FOUR SEASONS. Selecting and Managing Fruit Trees—*Dr. Larry Stein, Ph.D.*, Associate Head Professor and Extension Horticulturist, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University
David Rodriguez has bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture from Texas A&M University and has been with AgriLife Extension Service for 14 years. David has been gardening for 35 plus years along with extensive experience in the green industry. **Four Seasons of Maintenance—*Robert "Skip" Richter*** a horticulturist, gardening educator, gardening writer, and avid horticultural photographer. Skip serves as a contributing editor for Texas Gardener magazine and has appeared weekly on the Central Texas Gardener television program for over a decade.
Twelve Months of Color—*Dr. Calvin Finch, Ph.D.*, a retired Texas A&M Horticulturist who writes every week for the San Antonio Express News, the New Braunfels Herald Zeitung and other area newspapers. He also appears every Saturday and Sunday on Milberger's Gardening South Texas Radio Show on KLUP 930 The Answer from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. McKenna Event Center 801 West San Antonio Street New Braunfels, TX 78130. CEUs- 6 hours. REGISTER online at <http://txmg.org/comal/events/seminar>

Dripping Springs: WILDFLOWER SPRING MARKET. March 23, 2019 - March 24, 2019. Saturday 10am - 5pm and Sunday 11am - 4pm

Join us at the 8th annual show! Vendors from all over the state will gather to present their wares including clothing and accessories, jewelry, gourmet foods, wood works, artists, handmade items, garden decor, plants and so much more! Dripping Springs Ranch Park, 1042 Event Center Drive, Dripping Springs, TX 78620

(On RR12, north of Hwy 290, across from the Dripping Springs Elementary School. **GPS will not work for this address!**) Admission is \$5.00 per person and is good for both days. Children 12 and under are FREE! Bring a non-perishable food item for the Helping Hands Food Pantry and receive a \$1.00 discount on your admission! <http://www.TexasMarketGuide.com>

Upcoming Advanced Training Offerings

Vegetables – February 13-15, 2019, hosted by Dallas County in Dallas, TX

Tree Care – March 13-15, 2019, hosted by Dallas County in Dallas, TX

Turfgrass – March 14-15, 2019, hosted by Montgomery County, in Conroe, TX

Tree Care – June 12-14, 2019, hosted by Kerr County, in Kerrville, TX

Earth-Kind® – May 16-18, 2019, hosted by Henderson County, in Athens, TX

Vegetables – August 13-15, 2019, hosted by Bexar County, in San Antonio, TX



Visit the 2019 Texas Master Gardener Association Conference website for complete information. The Victoria County Master Gardener Association is very proud to host the April 25-27 event at Victoria Community Center, 2905 E. North St., Victoria, TX 77901.

<http://2019tmgaconference.com/>

**If a Gonzales Master Gardener wants to attend,
check with a board member about how part of the cost can be defrayed by GMG.**

Check out www.txmg.org for events around the state

New Braunfels area: <http://txmg.org/comal/events>

Austin Area: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/>

San Antonio, Texas- <http://www.bexarcountymastergardeners.org>

DATES TO REMEMBER: (Check elsewhere in newsletter for details)

**Unless otherwise noted, all meetings/classes are at
623 N. Fair Street (Plantatarium: A Center for Exploration-aka PACE)**

FEBRUARY 10	11	12 Children's Garden Workday 9:30 am	13 GH workday 9:30 am	14	15 Children's Garden Workday 9:30 am	16
17	18	19 MG Class Landscape Concepts and Design	20	21 1st graders plant gardens	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Lunch & Learn - noon- Composting Board Meeting	MARCH 1 Volunteer hours due	2
3	4	5 MG Class 8:30 am	6	7 Noon MG Lunch Mtg	8	9
10	11	12 SPS work in GH	13 SPS work in GH	14	15 Plant Sale Set Up 8:30 am	16 SPRING PLANT SALE 8:30 am-1:00 pm
17	18	19 MG Class 8:30 am	20	21 1 st grade visit gardens	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Board Mtg.	29	30
31 Volunteer hours due	APRIL 1	2 MG Class 8:30 am	3	4 Noon MG Lunch Mtg.	5	6



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