



As the Garden Grows Fall

*A Publication of the Gonzales Texas Master Gardeners
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President's Message

Master Gardener class #11 commenced at PACE on Tuesday, September 14. Twenty-one signed up to begin their horticulture instruction. A large contingent of Gonzales Master Gardeners were in attendance to meet the incoming trainees.

Course instruction includes botany, soil characteristics, plant propagation, trees, container gardening, greenhouses, seed starting, turf grass, butterflies, ornamentals, rainwater harvesting, fruit production, vegetable gardening, plant diseases, pest control and landscape design.

The Texas Master Gardener Handbook, prepared by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is the horticulture training manual for the program. The authors of each chapter include Extension Program Specialists, Professors and Lecturers at Texas A&M, and County Extension Agents

We were gratified by the large turnout for the start of class #11. Especially, after having to cancel the training class in 2020 because of the COVID pandemic. Now that we are returning to normal. Master Gardeners are invited to update their information and attend course lectures when convenient.

Nick Wentworth- GMG President

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[Around the Garden This Month](#)

Soil: Start or continue to compost, and mulch.	Water: Water as necessary
Fertilize trees and bushes especially if newly planted to encourage roots. You might have your soil tested too to check on what is needed.	Lawns: Continue to mow and water as needed. It might be time to consider a mulching mower.
Maintenance: Do Normal Maintenance. Check your hummingbird feeders if they are still here feeding.	Trees, Shrubs, Grasses, Perennials, Grasses and Wildflowers: Best time to plant potted or burlap wrapped trees and shrubs. Place protective barriers around young trees in rural areas to protect from antler-rubbing deer. (See a) Check your nursery for grasses, perennials to plant before frost. Sow wildflowers and spring blooming bulbs. Vegetables: Plant Garlic Oct. 1: Swiss Chard, Onion seeds, Now to Mid-November: English Peas, Radish, Spinach, Turnips, Crop Covers (see b) Oct 10: Lettuce, Parsley, Kale/ Collards, Oct 15: Beets

Gonzales County Vegetable Variety Link https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg_variety/search.php?county=Gonzales&co=Search+by+County

Texas Tree Guide: <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/listOfTrees/>

(a)



Example of a young Live Oak tree
Where deer have rubbed off bark.



Patched and protected.
Hope it keeps growing!

(b) Winter Cover Crop YouTube Video with Central Texas Gardener:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZWvggdVzYQ>



Harvesting Seeds

Contributed by Nick Wentworth

Cleaning up the garden from the previous growing season offers the opportunity to save seeds produced from favored plants. Capturing seeds for the next growing season means no longer having to purchase as many commercially grown seeds.

Because hybrid plants have been crossbred, their seeds might produce a plant that does not resemble the desired plant. Non-hybrid plants are described as open-pollinated by natural means such as wind or insects, their seeds normally produce a plant that resembles the present plant.

Flower seeds need to ripen before being collected. Plants that produce seedpods, once ripen can be harvested before ejected from the pod or scattered by the wind. Leafy vegetables and herbs set seeds after they flower. More challenging can be tomato seeds because of the pulp encompassing the seeds. Collecting wet seeds, put them in water, in a jar to create separation. Once separated and washed in a strainer the seeds can be dried and stored for future use.

Harvesting and saving seeds can be a fun and instructional experience for family members. It also focuses on what grows during the next growing season.

Memories of Gardening with Bulbs

Submitted by Arline Rinehart Schacherl

A few weeks ago, as I was digging up some liriopse for a gardening job at church I was pleasantly surprised to find a plethora of bulbs that I had forgotten were in that area of the flower bed. It was fortuitous I suppose since I was asked to write about bulbs for the newsletter. So, my research on bulbs began since I was not sure what kind of bulbs I had discovered.

I looked through several of my gardening books to learn more about bulbs. Two resources that were helpful include *The Bulb Hunter* by Chris Wiesinger and William C. Welch and *Comal County Gardening Guide* written by Comal Master Gardener Association. The following tidbits gleaned from these two books might be helpful if you are thinking of adding bulbs to your landscape.

Bulbs are easy to grow and care for and are usually inexpensive. Choose a sunny location for planting that has good drainage. Prepare the bulb planting space in September and October by adding a generous amount of organic matter/compost. While supplies are in stock purchase good quality bulbs that are healthy. Be sure to check where bulbs originate; Holland bulbs may not do as well here. Also prepackaged bulbs offered at discount prices may not be as productive as one would hope. If possible, try to find bulbs that have naturalized locally (that is, they return year after year). The bulbs I discovered in the flower bed had naturalized over the years. Friends often swap plants and bulbs. Now that's the kind of shopping I like!

Plant bulbs in November around Thanksgiving so they can cool in the ground. General rule of thumb for planting: bulbs should be planted twice as deep as height of bulb. Example: 1" bulb should be planted 2" deep. Small bulbs may be planted as close as 2 – 3" apart. Larger bulbs can be planted about a foot or more apart. Huge bulbs like crinum require even more space. It's best to use fertilizer sparingly; organic fertilizer like cottonseed meal can be spread at 5 pounds per 100 square feet of planting space. Another source suggested that a fertilizer like blood meal can be placed in the hole as the bulbs are planted. Once the bulbs are planted, they should be watered and during dry spells that occur during the first season following planting. Deadhead the faded flowers after spring blooming to prevent seed production instead of bulb growth.

In Robert "Skip" Richter's book, *Month-by-Month Gardening: Texas*, I found a helpful chart that explained about "bulbs" which is often a generic name given to several different types. True bulbs have a basal plate which is the stem of the plant. The inner layers of fleshy leaves are storage, known as scales. Examples of true bulbs are tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, lilies, garlic, and onions.

Corms also have a basal plate that roots develop from. There are no layers or scales—only tissue that is the stem's solid storage. Gladiolus corms planted by my mother were always fun for us to watch as they grew into tall stalks with colorful blooms. Crocus and freesia are also examples of corms.

Rhizomes have a type of stem that develops horizontally under the soil surface. Bearded iris, cannas, and ginger grow from rhizomes. Remembering the irises in my mother's garden in colors of white, purple, and one that she said was bronze always comes to mind when I see those same colors of iris in my own flower beds.

Tubers, that is underground stem tissues, are swollen and have no basal plates. When I was much younger, my sister and I thought it was fun planting pieces of potato in the family garden and even more fun digging up the new potatoes' months later. Little did I know back then that potatoes and caladiums are tubers that, respectively, provide food and beautiful color in the landscape.

Fleshy roots, like those of daylilies, are swollen storage. These roots must be attached to a section of the plant's base which has buds for regrowth of a new plant. Memories of beautiful yellows and oranges of daylilies blooming near the dining room of my childhood home come to mind. Some of those daylilies have been growing in the same location for many decades.

I hope that perhaps I have enticed you to try bulbs in your garden. By the way, I think my bulb discovery happens to be in the true bulb category. I look forward to planting them again and enjoying whatever the color happens to be. Secretly I am hoping they might be red—my mother's favorite color.

Happy bulb gardening!

[Eggleston Garden and PACE Work Days](#)

We have had a lively volunteer month from August to September in our garden areas.

The Eggleston Children's Garden is in much better shape today after a crew of hard weeding, GMGs came together on August 24th and September 7th. Contacted by Arline Schecherl who provided breakfast tacos, volunteers Marcus, Jane, David, Kay, Fran, Mike, and Mayra arrived bright and early. With tools in hand and ant bait, everyone cleaned up some of the planting beds to ready for one of this year's GMG Children's Program. Some garden beds still had marigolds growing, others had a cache of carrots and lots of thick grass to weed out.

Our PACE meeting place had a trim, weed, and mow on September 11th by Arline, Marcus and Fran to get ready for the new GMG Class and students.

Things To Do In The Garden In The Fall

Submitted by Cheryl Hillman

This cool weather makes us want to get out and dig in the dirt. Fall is the best time to plant perennials. Late September and early October are ideal times to plant perennials because it allows the roots to become established before the ground cools and winter sets in. Below are lists of shrubs, perennials and annuals that bloom in the fall in our area. While these may not bloom this year, they will be established for next fall. Spring and summer perennials will also benefit from planting at this time.

SHRUBS

American Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa americana*) native, understory evergreen shrub, attractive purple berries in the fall

Barbados Cherry (*Malpighia glabra*), Dwarf Barbados Cherry (*Malpighia glabra* 'Nana' South Texas native. Sun, part sun, delicate pink flowers spring to early fall, red berries birds and small mammals love. Evergreen above 25 degrees.

Flame Acanthus (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*, native shrub, orange, tubular flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies. If frost browns the leaves cut plant back by 1/3.

Mistflower, White (*Ageratina havanensis*) fragrant, white blooms until first freeze, attracts butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds

PERENNIALS

Copper Canyon Daisy (*Tagetes lemmonii*) native to Mexico. Daisy-like flower, strongly scented leaves, prune plants to size you want, stop shearing by mid-summer for fall flowers.

Fall Aster (*Aster oblongifolium*) Native perennial, purple/lavender blooms with fine-texture, profuse bloomer, lightly prune through spring and summer to keep compact

Firebush (*Hamelia patens*) Dwarf Firebush (*Hamelia patens* 'compacta') red to orange tubular flowers, attracts hummingbirds. Prune to 6 inches after first hard freeze before spring growth.

Mexican Mint Marigold (*Tagetes lucida*), also known as Texas tarragon, culinary herb, small yellow-orange flowers in fall. Nectar source for butterflies.

ANNUALS

Dakota Gold Helenium (*Helenium amarum* 'Dakota Gold', native Texas Wildflower, small yellow daisy-like flowers through fall. Self-seeding annual.

Fall Zinnias (*Zinnia x marylandica*, *Zinnia elegans*) Profusion and Zahara zinnias produce flowers until first frost.

Garden Mums come in many colors and are readily available from your local nursery. They add color to your garden.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 GMG Class #3 Plants and Soil 	6	7 Monthly Meeting 	8	9
10	11	12 GMG Class # 4 Plant Propagation 	13	14 2 nd Grade Terrarium Ecosystem at PACE 	15 Alternate date for 2 nd Grade Terrarium Ecosystem	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26 Class Field Trip to S.A Gardens 	27	28 GMG Board Meeting	29	30

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