



As the Garden Grows



A Publication of the Gonzales Texas Master Gardeners
March 2022- Spring Issue 13

President's Message

The month of March is vegetable and tomato time. Tomatoes are the most popular crop for home gardeners. They can be grown in containers or in the ground. They need at least six hours of sun daily. Be mindful of days it takes to produce. The time might range from a month and one-half to three months depending on the variety.

Tomatoes are classified as determinate or indeterminate. Determinates generally grow up to a height of three feet. Semi-determinates can grow up to five feet. These varieties are ideal to grow in seven-to-ten-gallon containers.

Indeterminates do not have a predetermined height. They will top a six-foot cage if not pruned. They are best grown in the ground or in large containers, ten gallons minimum. Indeterminate varieties will produce from spring to the first frost.

Examples are cherry and heirloom varieties as well as popular names including Early Girl, Big Boy, and Brandywine.

The Gonzales Master Gardener tomato and vegetable plant sale at the PACE building Saturday March 5th will; feature varieties best suited to be grown in this part of Texas.

Nick Wentworth GMG President

GMG Board

President... Nick Wentworth

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GROW TEAM LEADERS

Annuals, Houseplants, Tropical Plants-
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Trees- Donna Bell- 512-797-7646

SPS Leader- Shirley Frazier, 830-857-3634, Nadine Hodges-Taylor, Mike Taylor, and Fran Saliger



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GMG 2021 Volunteer of the Year Master Gardener Marcia Lambert



photo by Carolyn Parratt

“I want to thank the Gonzales Master Gardeners for this honor. I initially became a Master Gardener while living near Fort Worth, and I have been very grateful as it has helped me find fellowship after job-related moves to new cities and states. That has been especially true here in Gonzales. My involvement in school projects, plant sales and the newest class has really helped me to get to know the community better. Becoming a Gonzales Master Gardener has felt like “coming home “to new friends!”

In the Garden Landscape with Master Gardeners .

<p>Fertilize: * Always check your soil sample before fertilizing small trees and shrubs.</p>	<p>Water and/or irrigate as you check for dryness.</p>
<p>Planting time for those herbs, or plan to buy them at the GMG sales in April. Divide and plant dormant perennials, roses, shrubs, and trees, wildflowers, vines, and ornamentals while still cool.</p>	<p>Soil: * Follow Texas A&M AgriLife recommendations from your soil test sample results. Ask a Master Gardener or your County Ag Extension Agent.</p>
<p>Lawns: Warm-Season turf grass seeds can be germinated when temperatures reach 70 degrees (to 90degrees.) Learn more in the GMG Manual: <i>Lawn Care.</i></p>	<p><i>Diseases</i></p> 
<p>Maintenance: Prune and cut rose bushes according to its category. Also, other woody bushes, trees, perennials, ornamentals. Read more about Crape Myrtles and Oak Trees before pruning/cutting. Mulch, Mulch, Mulch! For more information read the article at: https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/proper-pruning-techniques/ or look in your Texas Master Gardener Manual</p>	<p>In the Vegetable Garden: * Check your soil sample to understand your garden soil needs. Begin readying for Spring seeds/transplants. Look at your planting guide and do your own research based on planting varieties that you like, and times, or ask a Gonzales Master Gardener.</p>

Search Plant Maps for your 2022 Spring Last Frost Date according where you live.
<https://www.plantmaps.com/interactive-texas-last-frost-date-map.php>

Annuals, Houseplants and Hanging Baskets Plant Sale

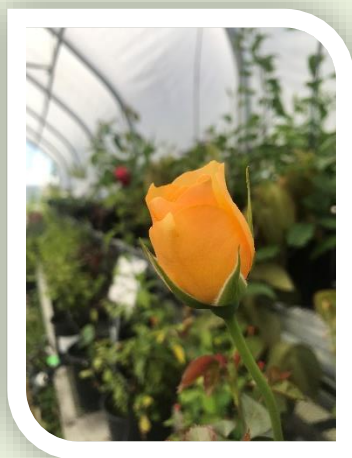


Photo by M. Guisinger

With Shirley Frazier

As of now there are houseplants and hanging baskets in the greenhouse that have been propagated. There are baskets of sweet potato vine, red verbena, airplane plants and

wandering Jew. Some of the houseplants are a variety of coleuses, begonias, and gizzard plants (don't like that name) but they are very pretty and colorful.

We, Master Gardeners, have in the past purchased annuals that are blooming in April from a couple of wholesalers. We plan on doing that again this year. Last year there were very few annuals available because the nurseries really suffered from the historic freeze. We were fortunate to be able to get some annuals, such as coleus and impatiens from Plant Odyssey, which is close to Austin and supplies the 4-H with their beautiful poinsettias every year. Also, Seville Farms gave us the surplus plugs of varieties of petunias, calibrachoa, portulaca, and zinnias. If it hadn't been for these sources we would not have had any annuals for the sale. Almost all the houseplants that were in the greenhouse had frozen.

If you have geraniums, other than scarlet red, try to propagate a few. And if you have annuals that come up volunteer, you might consider transplanting them into pots. If you are good friends with your neighbors, they might welcome you to thin out the plants. You can also plant the seeds of zinnias and other annuals approximately 8 weeks before the sale, April 9th. It would be best to grow them outside in pots where the sun can reach them directly. Also, pinch them back early to make them branch out.

Nadine Taylor is the grow team leader for annuals, houseplants, and tropical. Contact her if you have any of these plants growing for the sale. You are not limited to the plants that I have mentioned by any means. We need a large variety of seasonal plants.

Gonzales Master Gardeners'

Tomato/Vegetable

Plant Sale

Saturday, March 5, 2022 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Tomatoes

Peppers

Eggplants

Squash



Gonzales Master Gardeners' Building

623 N. Fair Street

Between Gonzales Elementary School and Bus
Barn

www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org

February Visitor



Photo by Carolyn Parratt

Visitor Liz Adams from The Gonzales Inquirer pictured here on the right with GMGs Sandy Llewellyn and Barbara Scott in the Greenhouse was Dee Sengleemann's guest at our February monthly meeting. Liz was interested in our organization's work and volunteerism. (M.G.)

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Plant Pathology 8:30 a.m. 	2	3 GMG Monthly Meeting @Noon 	4	5 VEGETABLE SALE at PACE. /Last day to send February Volunteer and CEU hours to C. Hillman.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Daylight Savings Time	14	15 Field Trip to L.B.J. Wildflower Center in Austin 8:30 a.m. 	16	17	18	19
20 Spring Equinox	21	22	23	24 Children's Garden Observation Visit 12:40 p.m. / GMG Board Meeting	25 Alternate date for the 24th	26
27	28 First day to send March Volunteer and CEU hours C. Hillman	29 Entomology and Integrated Pest Control 8:30 a.m. 	30	31		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR BIRTHDAY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS!



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