



## *As the Garden Grows*



*A Publication of the Gonzales Texas Master Gardeners  
April 2022- Spring*

### President's Message

Spring is the time for garden adventures. On March 5th a huge number of people came to the PACE building to purchase Master Gardener grown vegetables and tomatoes.

Warmer weather after the March 12th freeze leads to planting time for annuals and perennials. Also, the opportunity to sow vegetable, herb, and flower seeds.

Think about adopting a pest prevention strategy. Beneficial insects are attracted to the garden when flowers and herbs are included along with vegetables. Companion gardening has the advantage of reducing the use of chemicals to control garden pests.

The GMG Spring Plant Sale April 9th at Texas Heroes Square features a wide variety of member and nursery grown annuals, perennials, succulents, hanging baskets, citrus trees, and blackberries. This event is a major fund raiser. The proceeds are a primary source of funds for GMG'S many activities.

Nick Wentworth  
GMG President

### GMG Board Member

President: Nick Wentworth  
Vice-President: Cheryl Hillman  
Treasurer: David Burroughs  
Secretary: Carolyn Parratt  
Past President: Arline Schacherl  
Agriculture Agent: D. Sexton

### GROW TEAM LEADERS

Annuals, Houseplants, Tropical Plants-  
Nadine Hodges-Taylor-512-492-5461

Perennials/Natives- Mike Taylor 830-743-3463

Succulents- Sandy Machacek- 361-772-2094

Herbs- Dee Senglemann-830-857-6845

Tomatoes/Vegetables-Sandy Llewellyn-713-408-4198

Trees- Donna Bell- 512-797-7646

#### SPS Leader-

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




*In This*

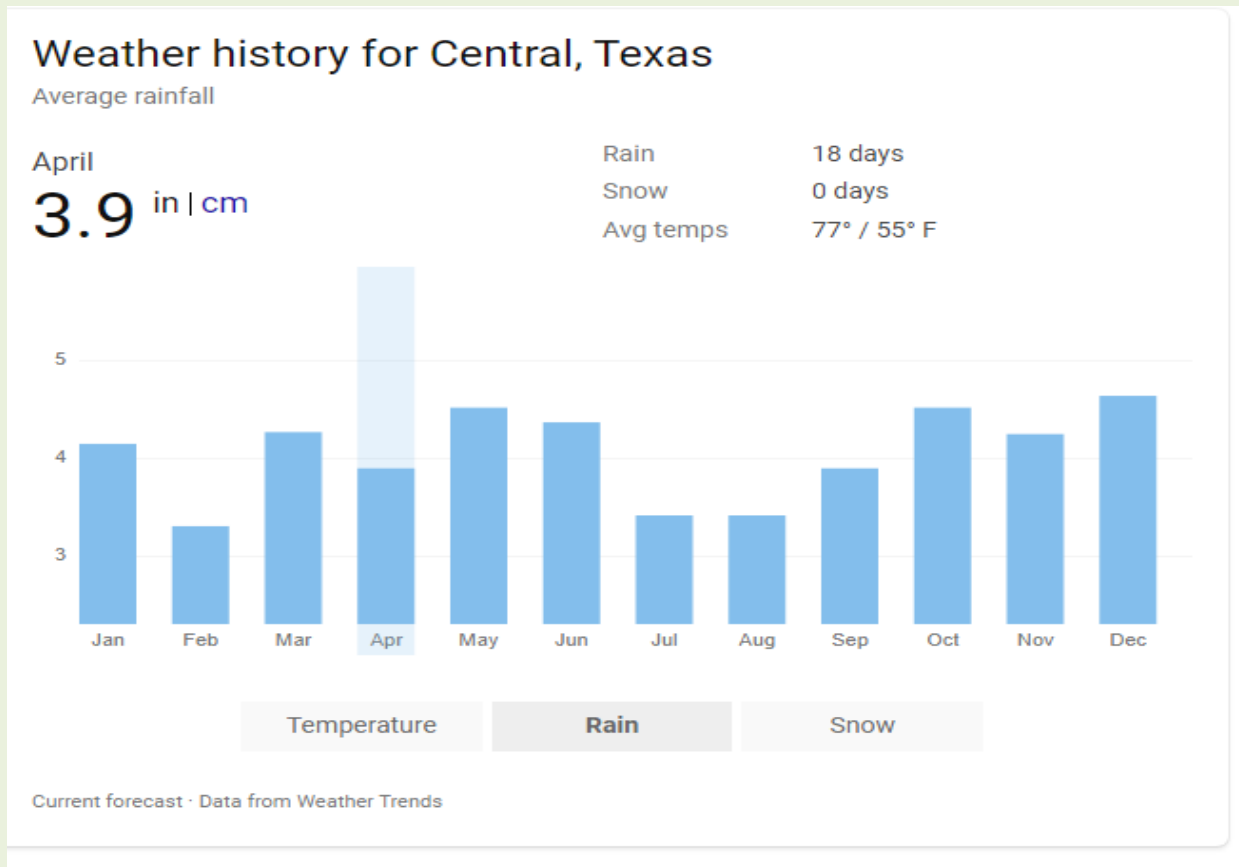
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## In the Garden Landscape with Master Gardeners .

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Fertilize: lawns, blooming trees/shrubs.</b></p>  | <p><b>Water and/or irrigate as you check for dryness.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Planting</b> </p>  | <p><b>Soil: Amend according to your needs. Mulch for weeds and to retain moisture as you plant.</b></p>           |
| <p><b>Lawns: seed with warm weather varieties. Leave the meadows (for country folks) with wildflowers for the early butterflies.</b></p>  | <p><b><i>Diseases and insects: Use least toxic solutions when possible. Encourage beneficial insects.</i></b></p> |
| <p><b>Maintenance: You can move those house plants outside. Start weeding before they get ahead of you. Cut back dead foliage from wintering on perennials to encourage fresh growth.</b></p> | <p><b>In the Vegetable Garden: It's finally warm weather! Time to plant those warm weather crops.</b></p>         |





## March Tomato/Vegetable Sale

Arline Schacherl

and

GMG student

Nicky McKinney.

Master  
Gardeners  
in  
the  
PACE  
Building.



Master Gardeners

Also volunteering: Team Leader: Sandy Llewellyn,

Nadine and Mike Taylor, Nancy Swenson, Carolyn Parratt, Anna Reinicke, Nanette Monaghan,

Holly Coco, Mary Jane Cornelius, Karen Herd, Sherlyn Clack, Missy Blackman, Kay Burrough, Fran Saliger, Nick Wentworth, Shirley Frazier, and Gail Johnson

Others Presale: Jane Barta, Sue Gottwald, Terri Kock, and Mayra Guisinger



**Sales Slips tallied by  
Sandy Machacek with GMG students  
Sandy Ray and Jane Blundell.**

**Treasurer Dave  
Burrough  
and  
GMG student  
Barbara Kuck.**



## A Delightful Find!

By Mayra Guisinger

As much as I enjoy gardening, I enjoy cooking with what I grow during spring and summer months. This past tomato sale at our local Master Gardener sale, I was finally able to find the San Marzano highly prized Italian heirloom tomato. I had heard rave reviews and many recommendations about this red jewel. Last year, I missed out on them because of their popularity.

These indeterminate plants have a longer growing season which suits our long, southern summers. The walls of this tomato are much thicker with fewer seeds, which makes the “San Marzano” tomatoes less acidic and sweeter than other tomatoes. If these plants produce, tomatoes anything like the “San Marzano” Italian brand tomatoes that are also a rare find in our local grocery stores, it will add so much flavor and richness to any sauce or salad that I choose to serve-up.

Unfortunately, as of this writing, (middle of March) because of the cold temperatures and freeze forecast tonight, I am prolonging their stay in the original pots, until the weather forecast predicts the warmer temperatures that we are accustomed to. Then, I will find a place near the other varieties that I acquired at the sale: Early Girl and Better Boy, caging them and with water, mulch and the heat of the sun expect my harvest over the summer.

I appreciate whoever grew this variety of tomato, it was a delightful find!

## Planting Day Excitement at Children's Garden

By Arline Schacherl



It was a beautiful sunny afternoon on February 17 when the ten first-grade classes walked to the Children's Garden for planting day. Excitement was in the air as the fourteen Master Gardener volunteers assisted the students with planting the tiny carrot, lettuce, radish, and spinach seeds in the five rows of raised beds. It is amazing how quickly the twenty-minute session passes for each group of two classes!

After the last two classes returned to campus, MG volunteers stayed to water each raised bed to kick-start the seed germination. Timers for drip irrigation lines were set for future daily watering and planting templates were packed up. About a week after planting, tiny radish sprouts were spotted as they broke through the soil. A few days later spinach began making its debut. Lettuce and carrots slowly began germinating as well.

Thanks to MG students Missy Blackman, Jacob Carter, Lindsay Chilek, Teri Koch, Nicky McKinney, Sandy Ray, and Jane Blundell plus MG members Mayra Guisinger, Jane Barta, Dave Burrough, Brenda Olsen, Kay Burrough, Shirley Frazier, and Arline Schacherl for volunteering their help on planting day in support of the Children's Garden project.

The first graders will return to the garden on Thursday, March 24, to observe the tiny plants, compare the leaves of each kind of plant. and measure the size of the plants. Because spring has been quite windy with little rain it may be necessary to reseed some areas where nothing seems to be growing. Many of the same volunteers will once again be prepared to share planting tips with first graders who will no doubt be excited to be visiting the garden.

## April 2022

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday                                    | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday                      |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
|   |  |  |  |   | 1<br>April<br>Fools<br>Day  | 2                             |
| 3   | 4  | 5<br>Last day to send<br>March Volunteer<br>and CEU hours to<br>C. Hillman   | 6  | 7<br>GMG Monthly<br>Meeting @noon<br> | 8<br>Set-up for Plant<br>and Herb Sale  | 9<br>GMG Spring<br>Plant Sale |
| 10  | 11   | 12<br>How to Plant<br>Tree and Tree<br>Diseases<br> | 13   | 14  | 15  | 16                            |
| 17<br> | 18   | 19   | 20   | 21<br>Insects<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade<br>Project   | 22<br><br><br>Alternate date<br>for 21 <sup>st</sup> | 23                            |
| 24  | 25<br>First day to<br>send April<br>Volunteer and<br>CEU hours C.<br>Hillman | 26<br>Field Trip and<br>Class Graduation<br>      | 27<br>Administrative<br>Professionals<br>Day | 28<br>Board Meeting   | 29  | 30                            |

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR BIRTHDAY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS!**



## **EARTH DAY 2022**

**EARTH DAY WAS FIRST OBSERVED IN 1970 WITH THE THEME “FOCUSING ON AIR AND WATER POLLUTION.” THIS YEAR’S THEME FOCUSES ON “INVEST IN OUR PLANET.” FOR SOME GARDENING- BASED PROJECTS SEARCH AT [EARTHDAY.ORG](https://earthday.org)**

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

**WE ARE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO THE  
2022 TEXAS MASTER GARDENER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE!**

**TO REGISTER AND READ THE AGENDA GO TO:**

**[HTTPS://TXMG.ORG/2022-CONFERENCE-INFORMATION](https://txmg.org/2022-conference-information)**

**MAY 10-11, 2022**





**CO-EDITORS: MAYRA GUISINGER, NICHOLAS WENTWORTH, AND DWIGHT SEXTON**

**CALENDAR: CAROLYN PARRATT**

**GMG WEBMASTER: JO SWIGER**

**GONZALES EXTENSION WEBMASTER: MARCELLA PERALES**

\*Photos on pages 3,4,6 & 8 taken by M. Guisinger