



As the Garden Grows

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

President's Message

At dawn on April 9, Gonzales Master Gardeners were preparing for the Spring Plant Sale at Texas Heroes Square. GMG's annual plant sale was to begin at 8:30 am. Saturday turned out to be a glorious sunny day. That fact plus a selection of interesting plants brought out many public buyers.,

Months of hard work by our members resulted in attractive annual and perennial plants, herbs and native plants grown at home or in our greenhouse. These were supplemented by a selection of nursery grown roses, succulents, house plants, hanging baskets, citrus trees, blackberry, and blueberries.

The plant sale and silent auction raised \$13,598 in the 4.5 hours until closing. The proceeds will help to support GMG educational programs with Gonzales grade school students, community adults and master gardener students. It also supports the greenhouse activities, the PACE building as well as general operating expenses.

The success of the plant sale is the result of numerous GMG volunteers that planned, grew plants purchased and transported plants, labeled and priced plants, collected silent auction items, helped the public and collected money.

We are truly grateful to all the GMG participants and thank you for a job well done.

Nick Wentworth, President

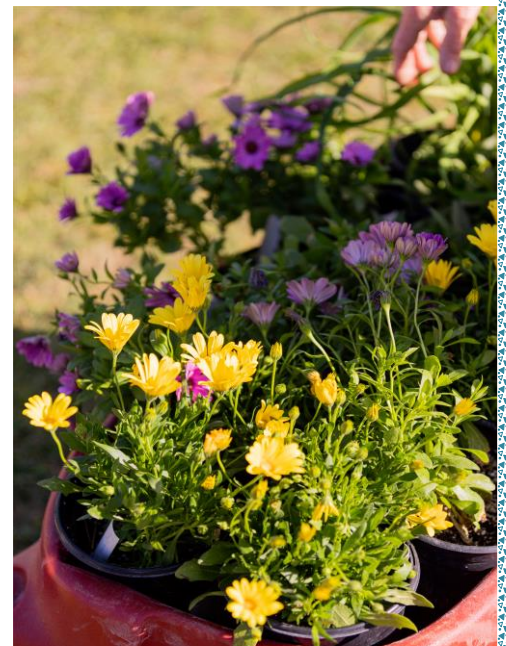
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In the Vegetable Garden with Master Gardeners.

Watering: Apply enough water to penetrate the soil at least 6 inches. Most gardens require moisture equal to 1 inch of rain a week during the growing season. Light sandy soils generally need more frequent watering than heavier dark soils. If the water source contains high levels of salts, do not use sprinkler irrigation because salt can injure foliage, especially during the heat of the day. Drip irrigation is preferred. In addition, drip irrigation uses less water and is ideally suited for use with mulches.

Mulching can increase yield, conserve moisture, prevent weed growth, regulate soil temperature and reduce losses from soil rots. Straw, leaves, grass clippings, compost, bark and sawdust make excellent organic mulches. Organic mulch incorporated into the soil after a crop is harvested also improves soil tilth (pulverization), aeration and drainage.

Although the amount of organic matter to use depends upon the type, 1 to 2 inches applied to the surface around growing plants should be adequate.

When turning organic mulches under for subsequent crops, add additional fertilizer at the rate of 1 pound per 100 sq. ft. This will activate soil organisms and reduce the drain of nitrogen from the decomposition of organic matter caused by soil microorganisms.

A long-handled hoe is the best tool for controlling undesirable plants (weeds) in a vegetable garden. Chemical weed control is usually unsatisfactory because weed control chemicals generally target only specific weeds. In addition, the chemicals needed for such weeds are often not labeled for use on the vegetables typically found in most home gardens. Cultivate or hoe shallowly to avoid injuring roots lying near the soil surface. Control weeds in the seedling stage to prevent them from developing seeds and re-entering the garden site. Mulch is also an effective means of weed control.

Diseases and insects are sources of concern to Texas gardeners. Long growing seasons and relatively mild winters encourage large insect populations to develop. As a result, these pests create serious challenges for gardeners. Avoid spraying when possible. If

necessary, use only approved insecticides, and exercise care when spraying. Apply chemicals only to those vegetable crops for which they are labeled. Read and follow the instructions on the labels of pesticide containers. When used as described, pesticides pose no serious threat to the environment or to gardeners.

Disease control is a preventative process rather than a curative one. Once disease symptoms are evident, it is often too late damage has already been done. Therefore, gardeners should become familiar with the diseases common to vegetables being produced and with the environmental conditions that may encourage those diseases. Cool, damp conditions are conducive to the development of many common garden diseases. Watch for disease symptoms and spray with the appropriate chemical when the first evidence of a disease is found or when environmental conditions are right for a disease to develop. Publications on disease and insect identification and control are available from your county.

Annual Spring Plant Sale Through Photographer's Lens

by Madison Lindner Photographs
















May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 May Day	2	3	4 Children's Garden Harvesting 12:40-2:45	5 GMG Monthly Meeting @noon 	6 Alternate Date for Children's Garden Harvesting	7
8 Happy Mother's Day	9	10 TMG Virtual Conference	11 TMG Virtual Conference	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22/29	23/30 Memorial Day	24/31	25	26 Board Meeting	27	28

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR BIRTHDAY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS!





Congratulations
to the 2022 GMG
Graduating Class!



**WE ARE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO THE
2022 TEXAS MASTER GARDENER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE!
MAY 10-11, 2022**



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