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**Gardening  
requires a lot of  
water—mostly in  
the form of  
perspiration!**



## *Cole Vegetables for Fall*



Even though it's still extremely hot in September, now is the time to start a fall garden. Fall gardens in Texas truly are like a second spring season and its time for those wonderful cole vegetables to be planted. What is a cole vegetable? Some people associate the word "cole" with the word "cold" but actually it derives its name from Latin and means stem. Cole plants belong to the mustard (Brassica) family and are all descendants of wild cabbage. The most common cole plants are: **Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Kale and Turnips.**

Cole vegetables grow best when the daytime temperature is below 80 degrees and nighttime temperatures below 60 degrees. High temperatures will cause vegetables to bolt (bloom) and produce deformed vegetable heads.

Cole vegetables should be grown in full sun and require large amounts of nutrients, specifically micro-nutrients that may not be found in regular fertilizers. Micro-nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, manganese, and boron can cause deficiencies in plant growth. But a little goes a long way so the best advice is if your vegetables are performing poorly, have your soil tested for these micro-nutrients before administering. If too much gets in the soil it can cause toxicity.

## *Planting Guide For Cole Vegetables*

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Broccoli	9/10 - 11/5			
Brussels Sprouts	9/10 - 11/5			
Cabbage	9/15 - 12/31			
Cauliflower		9/20 - 10/31		
Kale		10/1-10/31		
Turnip	8/20 - 11/20			

## *Propagating Root Cuttings*



*Propagating*



*Rooting Hormone*

Do you have some plants that you want to multiply or have some frost tender ones that you want to carry through winter indoors? Now is a good time to take cuttings from your favorite plants and root them.

1. Take a cutting about 4" long.
2. Remove the leaves from the bottom half of the cutting.
3. If the plant has large leaves, cut the remaining leaves in half, leaving only the half attached to the stem.
4. Dip the cut end in rooting hormone. You can purchase rooting hormone at your local nursery.
5. Place the cutting in a premoistened mix of 50% peat and 50% perlite, or 50% vermiculite and 50% perlite.
6. Cover the cuttings with a clear plastic covering or place in a plastic bag.
7. Place in a bright spot out of direct sunlight.
8. Moisten the rooting medium as needed to keep it moist.
9. When new growth starts to appear, repot the plant into a larger container using potting soil.

*Article from Month-by-Month Gardening Texas, Skip Richter, 2014*

## *September Plant Care*

**Annuals:** Deadhead blooms that have remained on the plant and are fading. Remove all yellow or dead foliage to improve the look of the plant. Remove any annuals that are spent from the summer and plant cool season annuals.

**Herbs:** Cut or prune back herbs that have become leggy or looking ragged. They will respond with new growth in the fall.

**Bulbs:** Order spring flowering bulbs now from catalogs. Don't plant just yet. If buying from a nursery, look for firm bulbs with no blemishes. Store bulbs in the refrigerator (even if they don't require chilling). Wait until the soil cools in November so bulbs don't rot in high heat.

**Vines:** Don't prune back spring-flowering vines like crossvine, Carolina jessamine or wisteria as it will prevent flowering in the spring.

**Lawns:** Don't apply fall fertilizer until warm season lawns such as Bermuda, St. Augustine, or Zoysia have stopped growing. Control brown patch by applying fungicide that is specific for this disease. Replace any dead spots with new sod and water evenly.

**Wildflowers:** Purchase wildflower seeds from catalogs that specialize in Texas wildflowers. The best time to plant wildflowers seeds in Grimes County is next month (remember October 31st). Read up on how to scarify bluebonnet seeds if they have not been acid or abrasion treated before purchasing so they will germinate over winter. It is recommended to purchase *L. texensis*.

**Trees/Shrubs:** Start looking for trees to plant (see Waller County's Tree Sale on page 4). The best time to plant here is in October and November.

## *Vinegar....Who Knew?*

### *10 Ways to Use In and Around the Garden by Patti Sexton, Master Gardener Intern*



My husband, John, has always lauded vinegar as the miracle cure for everything. I was an okay fan until I took a big gulp from a water bottle he had stored in the fridge. Yes, you got it, it was full of vinegar and that was the breakup between vinegar and me. However, I decided to give vinegar another try and was looking for a natural cleaner for different household uses but I also came across some great tips for us gardeners.

1. Vinegar can be used as a way of adding acidity to the soil of your plants. Mix one gallon of water with 1 cup of vinegar and water for these acidic lovers:
  - **Perennials:** gardenias, azaleas, camellias, daffodils
  - **Annuals:** Celosia, Marigold, Nasturtium, Petunia, Zinnia
  - **Herbs:** Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme.
  - **Climbers:** Hendra (English Ivy), Parthenocissus (Virginia Creeper), Wisteria.
  - **Trees:** Acacia, Eucalyptus, Magnolia
  - **Fruit:** Apple, Grape, Strawberry.
2. Try a gallon of white vinegar, one cup salt and 2/3 cup of baking soda to make a potent organic weed killer. Spray the weeds with the mixture and watch them waste away. No pesky chemicals added to the soil.
3. To clean unsightly clay pots stained with calcium and salt, soak the pots in mixture of 1 cup of white vinegar, 4 cups water, and soak for 1.5 hours. Your clay pots will look like new and they have the added benefit of being disinfected.
4. To help preserve those beautiful cut flowers from your garden, use of mixture of 1 qt. water, 2 Tbsp. sugar, 2 Tbsp. white vinegar. Pour the mixture into the vase and watch as your lovely flowers stay fresh and beautiful for weeks.
5. Some garden pests don't really have an affinity for vinegar and you can use it to rid ants, flies, and snail and slugs. Use a ½ and ½ mixture of water and vinegar to spray around where ants are a problem. You can spray the ants directly and also treat where they like to hangout. This is also recommended to get rid of those pesky snails and slugs. Spray liberally directly on the creepers or spray the plants directly. Fill a jar with apple cider vinegar and a few drops of dish soap. Flies will flock to the smell of the apple cider vinegar and the dish soap keeps them from flying out of the jar.
6. Cleaning rusty garden tools can become like new if you spray them with undiluted vinegar, let them sit, and then wipe them down. Vinegar removes stains, rust, and best of all it also disinfects your tools.
7. Those of us who love birds as well as our plants, use vinegar to scrub out bird baths, to disinfect and freshen the water in the bath.
8. Clean those fresh veggies from the garden with a vinegar and water bath. Mix equal amounts in a large bowl and wash.
9. Love to berry pick but don't love the stains it leaves on your hands, try washing those stained fingers in vinegar. It removes the stains easily.
10. You can remove water line stains inside your favorite vases by using a half and half solution of vinegar and water. Let soak for two hours then wash and rinse. They will sparkle.

These are only a few of the ways to use that big bottle of clear liquid grandma used for canning. Who knew it could be so handy?





LIMITED QUANTITIES &  
LIMITED OPTIONS  
LIMITED TIME PURCHASE OPTION

## 2021 TREE SALE 1,2,3!

1. ONLINE PRE-ORDER SALE: 9/15 – 10/1/2021
  - ❖ FACEBOOK / WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
  - ❖ <https://txmg.org/wallermg/>IN PERSON PRE-ORDER: 9/15 – 10/1/2021  
at Extension Office: 9am - Noon
2. PICKUP AT WALLER COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
SATURDAY 10/2/2021 9am – 1pm  
846 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET, HEMPSTEAD, TX 77445
3. CONTACTLESS PICKUP  
STREAMLINED PROCESS, NO DELAYS

Due to the limited quantity of trees the  
vendor is offering...  
First come, first serve purchased orders.  
No backorders.

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION



# Cooking Well with Diabetes

A cooking school designed to help people with  
diabetes and anyone that prepares food for them

## Sessions Include...

Carbohydrate Foods  
Recognizing carbohydrate in recipes  
and using sweeteners effectively

Make Recipes with Fat  
Better for You  
Healthy fats & fat substitutions

Double Pleasure Side Dishes  
Reducing sodium and  
increasing fiber

Celebrating Sensibly  
Special event recipes that are  
healthy and delicious



**Dates:** Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Location:** Navasota Annex Building  
205 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Navasota TX 77868

**Registration Cost:** \$15.00

Register by calling the Extension Office  
at 936-873-3907. The Deadline to  
register is September 29<sup>th</sup>.

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

<http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu>

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PLEASE JOIN MARTHA'S BLOOMERS

# *Fairy Tea Party*

Sunday, September 19: 2 - 3 PM  
All Children under 10  
Singing, Dancing & Refreshments  
Fantastic Photo Opportunity

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

BE SURE TO REGISTER:  
[REGISTRATION@MARTHASBLOOMERS.COM](mailto:REGISTRATION@MARTHASBLOOMERS.COM)



## *Gaye Hammond Rose Presentation August 10, 2021*

Grimes County Master Gardeners hosted a Special Presentation by Gaye Hammond, renowned rose expert, on Tuesday, August 10th, at the Navasota Center in Navasota, Texas.





## *Grimes County Master Gardeners 2021 Intern Class*

Grimes County Master Gardeners has started Intern Training for 2021. The class of 21 interns attended orientation on August 12th with the first class held on September 2nd. Training (on-line & in-person) will continue each week up through November for a total of 50 class room hours.





## Events

Grimes County Master Gardeners will **not** have a monthly business meeting in September. In its place there will be a **Fall Social on Saturday, September 25th** at Cathey and Sparky Har-deman's residence. Detailed information will be sent out to members and interns before then.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, many in-person continuing education classes are not available. Below are some virtual learning and webinars for this month.

# September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 ★	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 ★
12	13 ★	14	15 ★	16 ★	17 ★	18
19	20	21	22	23 ★	24	25 GCMG Fall Social
26	27	28	29 ★	30 ★		

## GOT A GARDENING QUESTION?

Got a gardening problem or question?

Contact our Master Gardeners to get help: [grimescountymastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:grimescountymastergardeners@gmail.com) or call us at [936-873-3917](tel:936-873-3917).

A photo along with your question will help us with the answer.

## Continuing Education and Events

- Sept 2, 16, 23, 30: Grimes County Master Gardeners Intern Training, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- Sept 11: Urban Harvest, **"Basic Organic Gardening"** 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m. \$20
- Sept 13: Home Grown Lecture Series, Harris County AgriLife, **"Permaculture"**, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
- Sept 15: Gardening on the Gulf Coast, **"Landscaping with Natives"**, 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
- Sept 16: Home Grown Lectures Series, Harris County AgriLife, **"Growing Microgreens at the Windowsill"**, 10—11
- Sept 17: Home Grown Lectures Series, Harris County AgriLife, **"Flavored Butters"**, 10 a.m.—11 a.m.
- Sept 29: Gardening on the Gulf Coast: **"Fall Lawn Care"**, 10 a.m.—11 a.m.

## Texas Master Gardeners

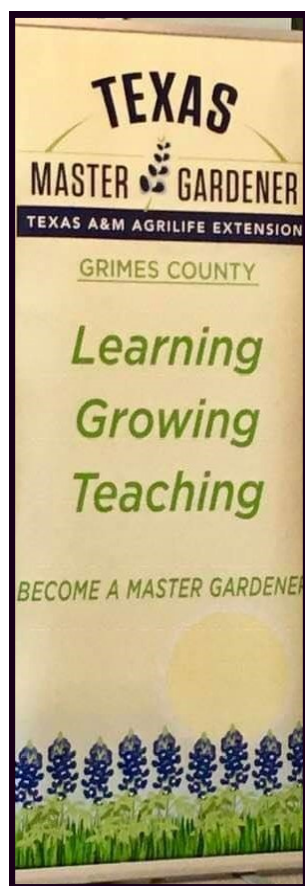
203 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Navasota, Texas 77868

Website: [txmg.org/grimes](http://txmg.org/grimes)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GrimesCountyMasterGardeners](http://www.facebook.com/GrimesCountyMasterGardeners)



## Grimes County Master Gardeners

Please send submissions and photos by the  
20th of each month to: [pwparmley@gmail.com](mailto:pwparmley@gmail.com)



## 2021 Board of Directors

President.....Paula Parmley  
Vice President .....Kimberly Herten  
Secretary .....Renee Harter  
Treasurer .....Herb Abraham

## 2021 Committees/Chairs

Administrative.....Connie Arden  
Advertising/Publicity.....Peggy Sloan  
Auditing.....Jena Jackson  
Community Garden.....Cathey Hardeman  
Co-op.....Fred Vesperman  
Fair Judging.....Vicki Wood  
Fundraising.....Carol Garnet  
Historian.....Sharon Murry  
Intern Class Coordination.....Herb Abraham  
Junior Master Gardener.....Kay Douglas  
Newsletter.....Paula Parmley  
Nominating.....Carol Garnet  
Social Media.....Jamie Bruns  
Scholarship Program.....Kimberly Herten/Renee Harter  
Timekeeping.....Martha Brogdon  
TMGA Awards.....Sharon Murry