The Compost Bin
A Publication of the Travis County Master Gardeners - a volunteer program of Texas AgriLife Extension

Firewise Landscaping
Mary Kay Hicks

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Firewise Landscaping - Mary Kay Hicks

Mary Kay Hicks, Special Projects Coordinator for the Texas Forest Service, will share her knowledge on “Firewise Landscaping” with the TCMGA. Mary Kay helped Sandra Taylor and Doug Welch develop the Firewise Landscaping curriculum for the Texas Master Gardeners training. She has spent her 20 years with the Texas Forest Service in East and West Texas, and has specialized in Fire Prevention. She has been providing specialist training to central Texas Master Gardeners in recent months. Join us March 7 to learn firewise landscaping tips for homes, especially those near green-belts and open areas. This is a timely topic with our continuing drought and traditionally windy Spring months ahead.

Master Gardener Meeting information:
Wednesday, March 7, 2012 starting at 7 pm.
Zilker Botanical Garden
Hello Master Gardeners:
A Message From Your President

Everywhere yards are filled with green and growing plants. While much of the greenery is from plants commonly considered to be weeds, it’s still a beautiful sight after last year’s brown and yellow landscapes. I’m watching my little bluebonnets, and anticipating a good stand for this spring (that is if I just can get my dog to understand which “grass” he can walk on, and which is mine). We all know it’s predicted to be another dry, hot summer, but at least we may have a glorious spring!

Speaking of spring, if you haven’t done so, remember to buy your advance tickets to the Zilker Garden Festival. With the new gate price of $8 for adults this year, the advance tickets at $3 are truly a bargain. They make a nice little gift to share for family, friends, and neighbors. And, for every advance ticket you buy, you’ve got $5 left to spend on plants (don’t you love gardener’s math?). So buy lots of tickets! Contact Rosalie Russell, our AAGC representative, to purchase tickets.

Thanks to everyone who’s been working at the greenhouse this past month. There are hundreds of little baby tomato and basil plants in 4 inch pots all over the greenhouse. The peppers won’t be far behind. The roses in one gallon containers have been pruned, and should be full of blooms by the end of March. More greenhouse workdays will soon be announced by Chris Giaraffa, greenhouse manager. Also look for invitations from Holly Plotner for plant grooming and pruning workdays. The plant sales at the garden festival are an important fund raiser for TCMGA, but it requires all of our efforts to have a successful plant sale. And don’t forget the members plant sale the week before Zilkerfest. Be sure to stop by and plan to buy you vegetable transplants.

The Demonstration Garden committee has really been making progress thanks to the many Master Gardeners and interns who have put in lots of hours, including working in the rain and muck.

What a team! It will take many more hours, but I predict the demo garden is going to be fabulous by the time the Inside Austin Garden Tour rolls around in October. This will be the first time the demo garden has been on the garden tour. How exciting to have our “home” garden on the tour, and visited by many people.

So, I wish each of you happy gardening and best wishes for a beautiful and lush spring, and I look forward to working with you to make the 2012 Zilker Garden Festival a success for TCMGA and AAGC.

- Jackie
In The Vegetable Garden
by Patty Leander

The lovely, mild days we experienced in January and early February reminded me of summer in Vermont, where the daytime temperatures rarely reach the mid 80s, and the nights sometimes require a light jacket. It’s perfect weather for growing heirloom tomatoes, even though gardeners have to wait until late May or June to get their plants in the ground. But seasoned Texas gardeners have no delusions about our ideal tomato growing conditions. We have but a small window of opportunity between our last frost (mid-March) and our first string of 90 degree days (mid-June). That gives us approximately 90 days to grow and harvest our very best tomatoes before the plants gradually succumb to the heat and pests of a typical Texas summer. Unfortunately, many of the heirlooms we love to grow take 80-90 days before that first juicy tomato is ripe for picking, and the intense heat of summer is not far behind. So be sure to include some quick-maturing hybrid varieties that start producing in 65-75 days as insurance for a successful tomato crop. The plant tags that accompany tomato transplants should note the days to maturity.

A few excellent hybrid tomatoes to look for at local garden centers include ‘Big Beef’, ‘Celebrity’, ‘Better Boy’, ‘Momotaro’, ‘Early Girl’, ‘Tycoon’ and ‘Champion’. Small-fruited varieties include ‘Juliet’, ‘Sun Gold’, ‘Yellow Pear’ and ‘Gardener’s Delight’. Support your tomatoes with cages, and anchor them to the ground with wooden or metal stakes, or tie them down with rope. Zip ties are a quick and easy way to fasten a stake to a cage or trellis.

If you have limited garden space, consider growing some plants up instead of out. Pole beans, small melons, winter squash and cucumbers are vining plants that can be trained to grow on a tomato cage, sturdy teepee or trellis. Many tomatoes (and most other garden vegetables) can be grown in pots, half whiskey barrels, galvanized metal cans or self-watering containers. Compact tomato varieties are best, such as ‘Patio’, ‘Tiny Tim’, ‘Health Kick’ or ‘Silvery Fir Tree’. Many of the ‘BHN’ varieties developed in Florida are determinate varieties that would also be suitable for containers. ‘Tumbling Tom’, as its name implies, is a cascading plant that will spill over the sides of a container or hanging basket. Just remember that when growing plants in containers, it is important to use large containers (preferably nothing smaller than 5 gallons for tomato plants, 8-10 gallons is even better), and be diligent about checking the soil regularly to be sure it doesn’t dry out. I have been growing broccoli and chard in large containers this winter, and have found that even in this cool, rainy weather, the soil dries quickly when the sun reappears, and the plant’s need for water also increases as they grow in size and begin to mature. Many potting mixes contain amendments such as coir fiber or expanded shale which will help with moisture retention.
It’s getting late in the season for cool weather plants, so now is the time to concentrate our efforts on the warm season garden. Beans, corn, squash and cucumbers can be planted about a week or so after we have experienced our last freeze. Watch the local forecast, but it is usually safe to plant by the second or third week of March. Peppers and eggplant prefer warmer soil conditions, so if you have the luxury of waiting another week or two to set them in the ground, they will appreciate your efforts. Mulching will insulate the soil and keep it from warming up, so have your mulch at the ready, but hold off on putting it around the plants until the end of the month. Cover tomatoes or any other transplants with floating row cover to protect them from strong winds and insulate them from late season chilling temperatures. Hot caps are small domes made out of heavy waxed paper that can be used to protect young seedlings. They can be purchased from online catalogs, such as Johnny’s.

Bluebonnet plants are popping up everywhere, and the Texas mountain laurels are starting to bloom. Let’s hope this is a sign of a gorgeous spring season ahead!
In the horticultural world, countless numbers of plant cultivars have been discovered and propagated to produce more desirable forms of plants. These include dwarf or other growth forms (such as upright, pendulous, prostrate); foliage color and texture (including variegations, leaf color, leaf forms); and improved adaptability (including tolerance to environmental or climatic conditions that are better than the species).

There are so many new cultivars being created that growers can’t keep up with them, making them less known and often hard to find.

A cultivar is a subdivision of a variety/species that identifies a plant characteristic which originated in nature but can only be replicated by asexual reproduction and human intervention. In other words, it is a sport and began as a genetic mutation that was discovered by someone and reproduced as a clone.

I recently discovered one of these mutations but was unable to save it as a new cultivar – a Variegated Yaupon Holly. To this day, there is no variegated form of this plant in the horticultural trade. I did discover a variegated form of Hamelia Patens which lives to this day in my garden and is recognized on Dave’s Garden named “Beyer’s Variegated”. So anyone with a sharp eye can discover a new cultivar of any plant. Some are worthy of marketing, many are not but are novelties.

Here’s an example of how cultivars of desired plants can help solve garden and landscape problems. Most of us live in small residential sized yard communities where space is limited. We recently converted our entire yard to xeriscaping where perennials and shrubs take the place of turf grass. We researched native and adapted plants that met our requirements of ranging from 1’ to no taller than 3’ height, deciduous, hardy and evergreen. Our desired plant choices included use of Jerusalem Sage, Copper Canyon Daisy Texas Sage, and Fragrant Sumac, but all these plants grow to 6’ and larger.

Research on the internet found dwarf cultivars or forms of each of these plants – Phlomis lanata, a dwarf Jerusalem Sage that grows no higher than 3’, albeit a different species rather than a cultivar; Tagetes lemmonii ‘compacta’, a cultivar of Copper Canyon Daisy that remains compact; ‘Siverado’, a dwarf form of the Texas Sage that grows compact and can easily be maintained at a small size, and ‘gro-low’, a cultivar of Fragrant Sumac that stays 2’ tall and spreads to 6’. Another example of a problem solving cultivar is the upright yaupon, Ilex vomitoria ‘Will Fleming’ discovered in Hempstead, Texas. This plant is ideal for a corner planting and takes up only a square foot of ground space. There is a dwarf cultivar of Hamelia patens that is much smaller than the species but provides the same ornamental features in smaller size. Then there is Miscanthus sinensis ‘gold bar’, a dwarf cultivar of the Zebra grass – itself a cultivar, that gets only 2’ tall rather than over 5; tall. There is also the dwarf cultivar of Mexican Bush Sage called “Santa Barbara” which is very compact but retains the desirable characteristics of the species.

In the way of desired shrubs for our area, the dwarf Pomegranite and dwarf Barbados Cherry are highly desirable over the much larger natural species. Dwarf forms of Crepe Myrtle abound. There is even a dwarf species of the fast growing Wax Myrtle that stays below 4’ – Myrica pusilla. So you may not have to give up growing a plant you like just because it gets too big. In fact, many plants that we desire to have in our gardens may come in a dwarf, space saving or problem solving form. The first challenge is to find them through internet research, then find a source or a retail nursery willing to order it from a grower for you.

I focus this article on dwarf forms of plants because with limited space, they allow you to grow a larger variety of plants, which adds interest and variety to your garden. Dwarfs reduce maintenance chores as well by growing much slower. Keep in mind that...
variegated plant cultivars also grow at a much slower rate than the parent plants and can also help in space limited areas.

Ironically, I discovered a desirable perennial plant for my garden that went the opposite direction size wise – a shrub form of Verbena rather than the prostrate ground cover form I was accustomed to. I am amazed at how many varieties and forms there are of our favorite garden plants that can fit a specific need or niche in our gardens. Another excellent example of this is the research Texas A&M has done with ‘Earthkind’ roses to develop and introduce water saving, drought tolerant and disease resistant roses which are a favorite plant for our gardens and landscapes.

On my wish list of new cultivar discoveries that haven’t been found yet includes a dwarf form of Yellow Bells Esperanza. Wouldn’t that be something! Well, maybe someday. New cultivars are being discovered all the time and introduced into the nursery trade. Be looking for them. I sure am!

Pictured above are examples of dwarf plant cultivars that save space. Top to bottom, left to right are Miscanthus sinensis ‘gold bar’ (dwarf zebra grass), Phlomis lanata (dwarf Jerusalem Sage), Tagetes lemmonii ‘compacta’ (dwarf Copper Canyon Daisy), and Hamelia patens ‘nana’ (dwarf Hummingbird Bush).
Flea Beetles
by Wizzie Brown

Flea beetles are small; most are 1/16-1/8 of an inch long, but some may be around ¼ an inch. They have an oval shaped body with color that can vary- black, bronze, red, yellow, bluish (Figure 1). Some have patterns of spots or stripes (Figure 2). Flea beetles have enlarged hind legs which they use to hop or jump, especially when they are disturbed.

Usually adults overwinter in leaf litter, becoming active in the spring. They migrate to gardens and lay eggs singly or in clusters in soil, plants stems or on leaves, depending on the species. Eggs hatch in about 10 days. Larvae are whitish with a distinct head capsule and six legs. Larvae are 1/8-1/4 of an inch long, feed on plant roots for 3-4 weeks, then pupate in the soil. Pupae hatch after 7-10 days.

While larvae feed on roots, they don’t actually damage the plant (with a few exceptions). Damage is mainly done by adults. Adult damage manifests as what is called “shot-holing”. The foliage is chewed to create many small holes so leaves look as if they’ve been shot with buckshot. Plants can become stunted or even killed with heavy infestation. Young plants or seedlings are particularly susceptible.

Keeping weeds under control in the garden is a good way to avoid flea beetles, since the adults may overwinter in weeds and begin feeding there in the spring. Row cover is another option to protect plants when they are vulnerable after planting. Vacuuming the insects from the plant is another option, but may need to be repeated several times.

Depending on the plant the flea beetles are feeding upon, pesticides may vary (i.e. products for treating landscapes may not be used in vegetable gardens). Always read the product label to make sure that the site is on the label, and apply according to label instructions.
Announcing an Updated Hardiness Zone Map
by Anne Van Nest

The recent launch of an updated plant hardiness zone map is causing more people to ponder the fine print on their plant labels; looking for the height, spread and hardiness zone details. Why the fixation with hardiness zones? Plant hardiness zones are valuable pieces of information that can save gardeners from lots of grief and committing planticide.

Not infallible, hardiness zones are far from 100% accurate. There are restrictions in the types of data that are being used to create hardiness zones and most often these are just average minimum temperature weather records – not ultimate low temperature data. It should be noted that plant hardiness involves so many more factors. Many times, whether a plant survives the winter or summer, may be because it is growing in a microclimate right in your own garden.

The Newest Hardiness Map

Early in 2012 the USDA released a new plant hardiness zone map, exciting news for gardeners and growers. The plant hardiness zone map is particularly helpful in deciding which plants will survive in a particular area. The latest USDA hardiness zone map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature using weather data collected over 30 years from 1976 through 2005. Even though thirty years of data was used to create the new map, it is important to note that the map does not use the lowest temperature for any particular location that has ever occurred. Meaning hardiness zones listed on plant tags or in books should still only be used as guidelines.

About using this weather data, the USDA explains, “The longer period (30 years) of data was selected by the group of horticultural, botanical, and climatological experts who led the review of the latest revision as the best balance between smoothing out the fluctuations of year-to-year weather variation and the concept that during their lifetimes, perennial plants mostly experience what is termed ‘weather’ rather than ‘climate.’”

Like the older map, the newest version is divided into color-coded, five degree F sections (13 zones in total, then further subdivided into “a” (colder) and “b” (warmer) regions) that identify annual minimum temperatures from –60 F to 70 F and illustrates this detail down to county-scale.

One new feature of the recently released map is an on-line, interactive option to simply type in a zip code and find the corresponding hardiness zone and temperature range. You can also click on your state (or part of your state as is the case with Texas) and a map will appear with more detail about your region. This is a nice quick reference for those that don’t want to browse the full map to find what they need. In addition, state, regional and national versions of the map can be downloaded from the internet. http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/Default.aspx

Two new zones have been added (zones 12 and 13) for warmer regions in Hawaii and Puerto Rico that have extreme minimum temperatures above 50 and 60 F. Even though zone 12 plants will thrive outdoors in only these two locations, this information is important for many gardeners in colder areas to decide when to best bring these same plants indoors from the patio or garden when temperatures start to drop in the winter.

The longer time period (30 years) of weather data used in the new hardiness map has resulted in most of the United States generally shifting a ½ zone (5 F) warmer (although some areas did change to colder zones because of the more accurate elevation depiction). The USDA says that this shift is attributed to more sophisticated mapping methods, and greater numbers of station observations, which has greatly improved accuracy (especially in mountainous regions), than from global warming.

Does this new map mean gardeners and growers will have to rip up their garden and change their plants if their hardiness zone has changed? Of course not. Plants that grew well up to now, will probably keep on growing just fine. What should be done as a precautionary measure is to carefully consider which plants are added to the garden if they are “pushing the hardiness zone boundary” and are not hardy enough for your location. But the hardiness zone map, while it is the most detailed one yet, doesn’t show microclimates that might exist in your garden or property, so
look for sheltered spots on the south side of a building or evergreen windbreak if you want to try a few new plants that are not rated for your hardiness zone. Other cold weather strategies include putting on extra mulch, adding cut boughs to collect the snow, planting early so plants are well established and planting deeper. There are many factors that play into the hardiness of plants including light exposure, soil moisture, duration and timing of extreme cold, and humidity or plant moisture conditions.

The First Hardiness Maps
The first cold hardiness map was published in 1927 by Alfred Rehder in his classic Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs. He used eight zones which were calculated based on the lowest mean temperature of the coldest month. The zones were marked in increments of 5 degrees F. Even with this information the boundary lines between zones were quite arbitrary. Donald Wyman in 1938 created a more accurate hardiness map. He used 40 years of data and based his map on the average annual minimum temperature. Surprisingly, his zones were created 5, 10 or 15 degrees F. apart. This lack of uniformity caused still another hardiness map to be developed twenty years later. In 1960, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) created its first map. The USDA map has since become the standard for the horticultural industry in North America. Most nurseries, reference books and catalogues use this map.

The Sunset Hardiness Map
Western gardeners came to feel that the USDA map was too restrictive with its cold temperature focus and didn’t reflect the true nature of the plant growing environments on the coast. So Sunset Magazine created a climate zone map that took into account many more factors such as the length of the growing season, rainfall amounts (and timing), summer high temperatures (and winter lows), wind and humidity. Sunset’s map divides the country into 45 climate zones – most of which are located on the West coast. Going east and north, the zones become much broader. Check out Sunset Magazine’s map at: www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/climate-zones-intro-us-map-00400000036421/

A First Time Look at Heat Hardiness
An interesting alternative to the cold hardiness, and of interest to southern gardeners, is the AHS Heat Zone Map. This map, first published in 1997, was created to indicate the frequency of high temperatures. The map is divided into 12 zones which have been determined from weather records. Researchers used the average number of days per year that the temperature is above 86 F to create this map. The map shows locations that have less than 1 day above this temperature to those locations that have over 210 days. Data for the map came from the daily maximum temperature records of 7,831 weather stations from the years 1974 through 1995.

Unfortunately the heat zone map is just for the US (including Alaska and Hawaii). It was created because cold temperatures are not the only weather factor that affects the survival of plants. In general the nursery industry has placed a greater focus on cold tolerance and breeding cold hardy plants than on heat tolerance. There are many plants that will not tolerate being grown where they do not get adequate cold temperatures in the winter. For example, Eastern Hemlock will not do well south of zone 7, and White Spruce will grow poorly if planted in zones higher than 6. It has been found that high temperatures kill plants slower than cold and are more likely to be misdiagnosed. The AHS Heat Zone Map can provide valuable information to prevent this. www.ahs.org/publications/heat_zone_map.htm

Take the plant zone information presented on the maps, printed on nursery labels or published in books as guidelines only. It is important to realize that hardiness is based on more than weather records of average minimum or maximum temperatures. Soil types, exposure, rainfall, humidity, proximity to windbreaks, soil moisture, amount of sunshine, plant types and the age of plants all contribute to survivability. Also, add one more criteria to your choice of hardiness map, which map is most accurate for your location. There are some good choices for gardeners, check them all out.
Firewise Landscape - Practices
by Wendy Buck

For three days in January, eight Travis County Master Gardeners were lucky to participate in Firewise Landscape Specialist training. Hosted by Williamson County Master Gardeners, the training was conducted by three wonderful and extremely knowledgeable ladies from the Texas Forest Service. Topics ranged from how wildfires are started, how a structure may be saved from fire, to firewise plant selection.

Firewise: to be firewise is to be adequately prepared for the possibility of a wildfire. Components include community design, escape routes and plans, construction materials, and the landscaping around a home. Creating a “defensible space” around a home or other structure allows for easy access by firefighting equipment, and increases the chance the structure will survive a wildfire.

In our training, we learned that 93% of wildfires in Texas are started by humans. Burning trash and debris on one’s property can quickly spread out of control. Pulling your car over onto the side of a roadway can ignite the grass, again quickly spreading out of control. Failure to properly or fully extinguish a fire in your portable BBQ grill can be disastrous if the grill is then left unattended.

You may have noticed the billboards around town featuring Smokey the Bear reminding us that “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!” There are steps you can take to greatly increase your home’s chances of surviving a wildfire. First and foremost, you should create a buffer zone around your house and other structures to keep fire away. Known as “defensible space”, this zone should extend 30 feet out from all structures. Within this 30 foot area, you should remove all dead and dying vegetation, including leaves, sticks and branches. Trees should be trimmed up to at least 6 feet off the ground. There should be no tall shrubbery against the house. Woodpiles and other combustible materials should be located outside the 30ft zone. The use of stone mulches and pathways in place of wood and grass, especially against your home’s foundation, will aid in stopping a fire before it gets to the house.

The area farther away from your house, up to 200 feet, should be kept clean and green. Keep the grass cut short, and remove all dead vegetation. If there are many trees surrounding your home, keep them trimmed up to at least 6 feet off the ground. You should consider thinning the trees. Don’t allow vines to grow up into trees, and keep any vegetation under trees trimmed low.

There are no hard and fast rules to determine a firewise plant. Neither is there a definitive firewise plant list for Central Texas. All plants are flammable, however some are more so than others. Diseased plants are more flammable, because of the loss of vigor, and the increased amount of dead plant material. Evergreens tend to be more flammable, because they generally have lower moisture content. In planning a firewise landscape, one important consideration is the separation of plants. Trees should be at least 10 feet away from homes and other trees. Shrubs should not be planted against the foundation of a structure, and low-growing plants should be used sparingly. Plants should be placed in small groups surrounded by less flammable landscape materials. Plant arrangement is one of the most important factors affecting the survivability of a home during a wildfire.

The points covered here will give you a very good start in keeping your home safe from fire, but there is much more to creating the firewise landscape. Please contact one of the Firewise Landscape Specialists for more information and assistance. There are steps you can take to get your entire community involved in becoming firewise. This summer is expected to be hot and dry. Don’t wait until it’s too late to save your home!
On December 12 and 13, I attended a Wildfire Preparedness Summit at Steiner Ranch. Steiner Ranch had several homes lost to one of the wildfires that plagued central Texas beginning last Labor Day weekend. The Summit was about Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) issues in Texas, and was an overview of WUI losses and the “mega fire” reality statewide. The speakers and audience were a representation of those who had responded to the wildfires (some who had suffered losses), and those who felt too close to the real thing, and were “keyed up” to learn how to be prepared for the next disaster.

There was a sense of urgency to inform people about what they need to do to prepare for the next disaster. On one day last September, there were six wildfires going on in different areas within Travis County! The Emergency Response teams became overwhelmed as they were short of personnel, and the crews were getting fatigued from lack of sleep and the constant stress of fighting the fires. The bottom line was that the public needs to prepare, and understand that there may not be enough personnel to fight all fires in the future. It is important that you plan ahead. Store enough food and water for three days. In case of an evacuation, know your route, and keep a list of important documents, clothing and medical supplies you may need to take with you.

Master Gardeners can help by being a part of a firewise landscaping mitigation plan - educate themselves on the best practices discussed above, and inform the public about what they can do to protect their families and prevent their homes from being lost to a wildfire.

Know what plants are the most volatile. Understand and identify the dangers within the Defensible Space (Home Ignition Zone) around your home, and inform yourself by going to www.firewise.org and www.texasfirewise.com.
Coming Events

Planting the Spring Garden

Thursday, March 15, 2012
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Travis County AgriLife Extension Office
1600 B Smith Rd.
Austin TX 78721

Now is the best time to plant the vegetable garden! Soil preparation, plant varieties that do well in the Austin area, and the general basics needed for a thriving garden will be discussed. Part of the session will be outdoors.

This seminar is free and open to the public. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. www.tcmastergardeners.org. For information, call (512)854-9600.

Firewise Landscaping

Saturday, March 24, 2012
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Austin Fire Department Training Center
4800 J. Shaw Lane
Austin, TX 78744

The wildfires of 2011 underscore the importance of landscaping for fire safety. This informative seminar will help you understand the Wildland Urban Interface, learn how to improve your homes survivability should a wildfire occur, and the benefits of early evacuation. Fire professionals from the National Fire Protection Agency, Texas Forestry Service and Texas Agrilife Extension Service will lead you through a series of visual presentations and interactive discussions to arm you with the tools you need to help protect your home and your family from wildfire.

This seminar is free and open to the public, but seating is limited, and reservations are required.
Signup at: http://travis-tx.tamu.edu/horticulture/ and click on seminar registration.

Empty, reserved seats will become open seating at 9:50 am. This seminar is free and open to the public.
55th Annual Zilker Garden Festival

Saturday, March 31 &
Sunday, April 1, 2012
10am - 5pm daily

Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Rd
Austin TX 78746

For over 50 years, the annual Zilker Garden Festival has been a one-stop, garden shopping destination when spring arrives in Austin and Central Texas. A family-friendly event, the garden festival offers something for everyone.

$8 Adults, $4 Children (age 3-12)
Parking $5

for complete information go to http://www.zilkergarden.org
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Carolyn Williams, Immediate Past President
Janet Booher, Vice-President for Programs
Cindy Groody, Vice-President for Education
William (Bill) Woodard, Volunteer Coordinator for Projects
Richard Moline, Co-Volunteer Coordinator for Trainees
Pat Mokry, Co-Volunteer Coordinator for Trainees
Susan Jung, Secretary
Tina Landers, Co-Treasurer
Van Alvarez, Co-Treasurer
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Rosalie Russell, Austin Area Garden Council Representative
Margarine Beaman, State Council Representative
Mary Kastl, State Council Representative

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Visit the websites: www.tcmastergardeners.org and
  http://travis-tx.tamu.edu

The Compost Bin March 2012

The End...

Time to Get Gardening!