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Plants From Around the World by Merrideth Jiles of The Great Outdoors
Plants From Around the World

Central Texas has a pretty unique climate. It seems plants that do well in other parts of the U.S. and even other parts of Texas just don’t work well here. Fortunately, there are other parts of the globe that have similar climates to ours. Merrideth Jiles, general manager of The Great Outdoors Garden Center, will present plants from around the world that adapt well to our “challenging” soil and weather.

Merrideth Jiles started in the plant business almost 20 years ago as the water boy at a small local nursery. He worked his way up the ladder, eventually becoming manager. He left the green industry for a few years in the 90’s to pursue a career in music, but found his way back to the plant world in 2001, when he joined the staff at The Great Outdoors.

Over the years, Merrideth has had his hand in nearly every aspect of the retail garden center business. In his current position, Merrideth not only steers the path of The Great Outdoors (TGO), making critical product and staffing decisions, but he also does much of the public relations work for TGO. Merrideth can be seen on Fox 7 news every Thursday, does the majority of the writing for TGO’s website and publications, and personally responds to most customer contacts.

Merrideth is a Texas Certified Nursery Professional and is active in the American Nursery and Landscape Association. He keeps his plate full by speaking for local garden clubs, other local organizations, and at national garden center events. The world of independent garden centers is his passion and he promotes the industry at every occasion.

Master Gardener Meeting information:
Wednesday, June 1st, 2011 starting at 7 pm.
Zilker Botanical Garden
Hello Master Gardeners:
A Message From Your President

Oh boy, we’ve dined on our favorite meal for the first time this spring — sliced tomato (‘Big Beef’), mozzarella and basil covered with olive oil. The veggie garden has begun to produce its bounty ... well, probably not as well as last year, but we take what we can get, don't we!

Large ‘Black Krim’, ‘Cherokee Purple’ and ‘Crimson Carmela’ tomatoes are bearing well and I find myself watching the birds — watching them with great interest. The fight is on as to whom will take home the prized large tomato! As for the small cherry ones, ‘Black Cherry’ and ‘Sun Gold’ are going strong on a daily basis. Unfortunately, our birds only wish to dine on my large ones ... bummies!

I’m counter-attacking with attached streamers, fake owl, netting, etc. Over at our house, we’re pretty darn serious about our tomatoes.

My first cucumber will be picked in a day or so and we have already enjoyed two wonderful meals with Roma green beans and fresh green onions. Yup, life with a veggie patch is good.

But, it did make me pause and remember my grandparents who, each year, produced a huge garden. No complaints, no excuses with bad weather; just plain produced a huge garden for themselves and for visiting family and friends. We never left their home without a large brown sack filled with every kind of vegetable you can think of, lots of fresh picked plums and, of course, fresh eggs. It was their way of life. They knew no other. They relied upon themselves, their own knowledge and labor. They lived off the land, these past relatives of an earlier generation. Farmers and ranchers; these were my people and probably yours as well.

Two generations later, their granddaughter is trying to get back some of which has been lost in between. I will be the first to admit I make regular runs to the grocery store, convenience store, specialty store, anywhere needed to make the meals we consume. But, a slight, nagging thought in the back of my mind is growing louder each year. Remember Nannie and Papaw and how they lived. Not the “simple” life, because it was not. They farmed cotton and pecans, raised a large family, always had fruit trees and that wonderful huge vegetable garden. That was the life style of their generation.

While we purchase newer and smaller computers, unbelievable phones that have more “apps” than I will ever be able to manage and the technical world continues to explode around us, still I wonder ... are we always advancing? Do we dare look back every once in awhile and wonder ... could we be as self-reliant today as our grandparents?

Happy gardening!
Carolyn Williams

Above: Distracting the birds with Holographic Scare Tape is working so far! Photos by Carolyn Williams.
Let me emphasize that the following statement is not a complaint, but I do believe that the mild days and cool nights we experienced in mid-May put a little hitch in my tomatoes’ giddy up! It seems they are taking forever to ripen, or maybe it's just that I have been waiting for juicy, red tomatoes since planting those tiny seeds in early January. Either way June is definitely tomato time, and I hope you have a bumper crop, or at least a gardening neighbor who has plenty to share.

I planted 25 different varieties this year, and the first to ripen in my garden was, drum roll, please … ‘Stupice’. ‘Juliet’ wasn’t far behind, followed by the lovely orange ‘Jaune Flammé’ and two new cherries: ‘ Favorita’ and ‘Tomatoberry’. The seed for ‘Juliet’, ‘ Favorita’ and ‘ Tomatoberry’ came from Johnny’s and ‘Stupice’ and ‘Jaune Flammée’, both heirlooms, came from Seed Savers Exchange. I have been impressed with ‘Stupice’, which showed strong seedling vigor and hasn’t slowed down yet.

Spider mites have been trying to move in but I have been keeping them in check by using a strong spray of water on the undersides of the leaves every few days. The inevitable stink bug invasion has begun, but so far they seem to be more attracted to the artichoke than the tomatoes, which is fine by me. I check the artichoke buds every morning; a search and destroy mission so that the little orange and black nymphs never have a chance to become procreating, tomato-sucking adults.
Bush green beans are producing; this year it’s ‘Roma’, ‘Taiera’ and ‘Contender’. They usually produce over a 2-3 week period and once it really heats up the beans become smaller and lose their snappiness. When that happens I pull them out and follow with a planting of melons or winter squash.

Late May and early June is harvest time for potatoes and onions. Onions will let you know they are mature when their necks soften and fall over. When that happens gently pull them from the soil and let them dry in the sun for a couple of days, then move them to a warm, shady spot to dry completely before storing. As potatoes reach maturity the foliage will gradually turn yellow and start to droop. Carefully loosen the soil around the plant with a digging fork, then the fun part — dig in with your hands to feel for potatoes. You never know what you are going to find, but I guarantee it will be better than any potato you will find at the grocery store. Happy harvesting!

Below is a yummy recipe for using those early green tomatoes, the first jalapeños and the last of the cilantro.

**Ninfa’s Green Sauce**

Recipe courtesy of Original Ninfa’s on Navigation

3 medium green tomatoes, coarsely chopped
4 fresh tomatillos, husks removed and chopped
2-3 jalapeños, coarsely chopped
3 garlic cloves, chopped
3 medium avocados
3 sprigs cilantro
½ tsp salt
1 ½ cups sour cream

Combine tomatoes, tomatillos, jalapeños and garlic in a saucepan. Bring to a boil (tomatoes will cook down and release liquid), reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes. Remove from saucepan and cool slightly. Peel, pit and slice avocados. Place all ingredients in a blender with avocados. Add sour cream and blend until smooth. Spoon into a large bowl, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate. Serve in small bowls as a dip for tortilla chips. Refrigerate leftovers.
A Wrap Up

Saturday, May 14, 2011, brought with it some of the most beautiful weather we’ve had in these parts in a couple of months. Not only was the day itself mild and sunny, but it also came on the heels of some much-needed rain. We couldn’t have asked for a better day to host the 5th installment in the Travis County Master Gardeners Association’s Inside Austin Gardens Tour.

This year’s theme centered on water-wise gardening, and featured the work of Master Gardeners Joe Posern, Rebecca Matthews, Sue Nazar, and Sheryl Williams. Additionally, this year’s tour included two firsts: a collaborative effort between Master Gardener Link Davidson and his neighbor Wendy Brennan, and a corporate guest, the Lower Colorado River Authority’s Redbud Center. A special guest to this year’s tour was Jeff Pavlat, President of the Austin Succulent and Cactus Society, and his amazing succulent and cacti gardens. Altogether, the seven stops hosted some 650 visitors. Average attendance at each garden came to 345, with highest attendance at Sue Nazar’s home with 427 visitors. These figures account for all gardens except the LCRA Redbud Center, where total guests came to some 150.

While our numbers were smaller than for the last couple of tours, our profit didn’t suffer much. This year’s event brought in just under $5000 (after expenses), according to TCMGA Treasurer Mary Lou Bell. The 2008 tour had nearly 70% more guests than this year’s number, but only managed to garner a 20% higher profit. Limiting our expenses this year allowed us such a substantial return.

Certainly, however, the Inside Austin Gardens Tour is not about reaping a profit. It’s about educating the public to what others do to make their gardening efforts successful. This year, we were fortunate to have on our tour a palette of gardens that are all interconnect in their reverence for water-wise techniques, but at the same time adhere to very different styles.

Those who shared the day with us were treated to a good amount of one-on-one attention, and many availed themselves of the learning opportunities present at each garden. Comments were extremely positive. Those at Joe Posern’s were amazed at what one man can do in such little time. Rebecca Matthews’ garden met with appreciation for the humor which permeates the space, but at the same time visitors loved the gardener’s sense for plants. Guests at Wendy Brennan’s yard commented repeatedly on their respect for the use of found and existing items, something which saves the landfill from even more waste. Those who visited Sue Nazar’s gardens were amazed at how lush a Central Texas space can be. And guests who spent time in
Inside Austin Garden Tour at Joe Posern’s Garden

Joe Posern’s garden on tour.
Photos by Mei Yi
Inside Austin Garden Tour at Sheryl Williams’ Garden

Sheryl Williams’ garden on tour. Photos by Angie Lofton
Sheryl Williams’ yard commented on the good sense of using mass plantings of a native in place of St. Augustine.

Guest gardener Jeff Pavlat’s visitors were treated to an hour-long presentation by the homeowner. Reports have it that no one left during Jeff’s talk.

TCMGA plant clinic volunteers staffed a booth at the LCRA Redbud Center. Talk about one-on-one opportunities! Guests there had a virtual confined audience.

Visitors offered much more praise for the gardens than I can possibly list here.

The event also featured the release of the new Creating a Drought-Resistant Garden in Central Texas, with many thanks owed the contributors and the project’s lead, Anne Van Nest. It was the release of this book that motivated the choice of this year’s tour theme. The ongoing drought, of course, made the theme’s selection even more appropriate.

Presentations and plant sales completed the tour. The water-wise theme underpinned the topics and the plant choices, contributing further to the cohesiveness of the event.

So was the tour a success? Absolutely.

Thanks go to the many of you who were involved as volunteers both on the day of the tour and in preparation for the event. We couldn’t do it without such a dedicated staff.

Our next tour is scheduled for fall 2012. But preparation begins this fall. You’ll be hearing from me.

If you haven’t already, please take time to view the photos from the day of the event. You can find them on the TCMGA Yahoo Group pages. Tommie Clayton sent an email about accessing the photos a week or so ago. If you have trouble accessing the photos, see her email to the TCMGA group of May 16, 2011.
Inside Austin Garden Tour at Wendy Brennan’s Garden

Wendy Brennan’s garden on tour. Photos by Anne Van Nest
Inside Austin Garden Tour at Rebecca Matthews’ Garden

Photos by Anne Van Nest

Rebecca Matthews’ garden on tour.
Photos by Anne Van Nest
Inside Austin Garden Tour at Jeff Pavlat’s Garden

Jeff Pavlat’s garden on tour. Photos by Wendy Buck

Continued...
Inside Austin Garden Tour at Sue Nazar’s Garden

Continued...

Sue Nazar’s garden on tour.
Photos by Sue Nazar and friends.
Announcing the upcoming release of ... 

**Creating a Drought-Resistant Garden in Central Texas**

Newly updated by Travis County Master Gardener’s

Launched at the Inside Austin Gardens Tour. $24.95 retail (245 pages)

**Special one-time MG offering $20 donation at the June meeting**

With contributions from Daphne Richards, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, County Extension Agent — Horticulture. Travis County Master Gardener’s: Vicki Blachman, Susan Decker, Cheryl Harrison, Sherill Nilson, Holly Plotner, Manda Rash, Steve Reynolds, Marian Stasney, Don Telge, Anne Van Nest, Becky Waak and Carolyn Williams.

Photographs by Bob Beyer, Debbie Hyde, Bruce Leander, Patty Leander, Mike McGiffin, Marian Stasney, Anne Van Nest and Carolyn Williams

Thanks to Vicki Blachman and JaNet Barkley-Booher for their title suggestions.

Central Texas is a wonderful place to live and garden. It also can be a challenge to keep plants healthy and happy when the weather turns hot and dry.

The Travis County Master Gardeners Association has harvested a bounty of advice, facts, lists and tips specifically for gardeners who are dealing with the challenges of drought and dry weather. It is possible to create a beautiful garden while saving a precious natural resource — one drop of water at a time.

Filled with collective wisdom from local gardening experts, *Creating a Drought-Resistant Garden in Central Texas* is about surviving and thriving when Mother Nature brings dry weather. Included are ways to conserve water in the garden without sacrificing the entire area to a no-water "zero-scape" area of stone, desert cacti or sun-withered succulents. The principles and tips outlined in this book are important, not only for the drought-prone region of Central Texas, where outdoor water restrictions are ongoing, but also for anywhere gardeners want to be more water-conscious.

Creating a Drought-Resistant Garden in Central Texas includes:

- Planning and Design
- Improving the Health of Soil
- Selecting Appropriate Plants (with numerous plant lists)
- Creating Practical Lawn Areas
- Using Efficient Irrigation
- Applying Mulches
- Watering Appropriately
A Plants Life Indoors
by Bob Beyer

Indoor plants (or house plants as they are more commonly called) consists of any plant that will grow well in household conditions. These conditions are generally low to medium humidity, reduced or low light, minimal temperature changes, necessitating container growing, and human intervention through hand watering.

The main purpose of growing plants indoors is to provide a sense of nature within the home or room space. Green plants also absorb CO₂ and release oxygen for a mutually healthier environment. Plants add a calming and natural decor to indoor space as well.

Most indoor plants are of tropical or subtropical origin. These are plants that would not survive most outdoor environments unless related to their native growing conditions. They range from being very large (such as palms) to very small (African violets), most of which grow in their natural environments as understory plants below the taller canopy of the tropical forest regions. These conditions are somewhat similar to most household or indoor environments.

Watering and fertilizing should be proportional to light levels. Plants growing in very low light require less frequent watering and nutrients because their growth is inhibited by lower light. Fertilizer stimulates new growth but without proper levels of light to aid in photosynthesis, they may grow weak and spindly.

Overwatering is the number one cause of death to indoor plants. As container grown plants in low evaporative conditions, moisture is retained longer and overwatering frequently causes root rot and soilborne diseases.

Many tropical or indoor plants are sensitive to chemicals in our city water systems and will react by showing necrosis along the edges of the foliage. Particularly susceptible are Chlorophytum (spider plant), rhapis palm, dracaena, Spathiphyllum and most plants in the Araceae family. It is always best to use collected rain water or distilled water for indoor plants.

An organically rich, well draining soil is preferred by most indoor plants. A loose organic soil allows more aeration for the confined roots and stimulates healthy root growth. Cacti and succulents prefer a mineral-based, very well drained soil.

Being isolated from natural predators, indoor plants can become a target for small pests such as spider mites, aphids, white fly, scale, and other sucking type of insects. Also indoor plants are more susceptible to fungi and mildews because the leaves stay moist longer, so water indoor plants from the base. Most insect and disease problems can be solved without the use of harmful chemicals. It is very important to remove all dying and dead leaves or portions of a plant to prevent spread of disease.

If you have children or pets in the house, look into whether your plants are poisonous. Know which plants you are growing. Dieffenbachia, pothos, philodendron and Euphorbias are examples of frequently used indoor plants that are harmful if chewed upon.

During summer, most house plants enjoy being outdoors in the shade and higher humidity and will respond with healthier and fuller growth. However, never take a plant that has been grown in low light indoors and place it in a much brighter

Above: Chlorophytum comosum ‘Variegatum’, the spider plant. Photo by Fanghong and used under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike license.
A Plants Life Indoors

light outdoors and vice versa. All plants require a period of gradual acclimation to major light changes. This “light adjustment therapy” may take up to a month or more.

Examples of plants that do well indoors are Aglaonema (Chinese evergreen), dracena, dieffenbachia, philodendron and their Araceae plant family relatives, sansevieria and other shade tolerant succulents, rhapis palm, Chamaedorea (parlor) palms, Scindapsus (pothos), gesneriads and the “ZZ” plant (Zamioculcas zamiifolia). The horticultural trade has developed, with the exception of palms and ZZ, so many attractive and different cultivars of these plants to add variety in appearance and color. These sports or mutations are propagated/cloned asexually.

Many tropical plants are never meant nor will adapt to being indoors. Examples are the colorful croton, poinsettias at Christmas, ficus, and most flowering tropicals. They require and demand higher light and/or humidity levels. The finicky Ficus will drop its leaves when moved to even slightly changed light levels. So, be aware that plants sold as indoor plants may not be meant to be grown indoors and choose only those proven to adapt to indoor conditions well.

Used with permission from the Gardening In Central Texas blog www.centraltexasgardening.blogspot.com

Above: Zamioculcas zamiifolia, the ZZ plant (right) and Rhapis humilis, the rhapis palm (left).
Below: Sansevieria hyacinthoides (right) and Dieffenbachia inflorescence
Photos by Kenpei (above left), WeFt (above right), Simon A. Eugster (lower left) and used under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike license.
Remembering Don Telge

Don Telge, TCMG Class of 2003 passed away on May 10th at the age of 77. At Don’s memorial service several Masters Gardeners were in attendance to share their thoughts and offer condolences to the family. Here are their messages and thoughts from others remembering Don Telge.

Ratna Gani and I spoke when the service was drawing to a close during the time when audience members were asked to offer memories. The minister and family had mentioned several times how important Master Gardeners and Zilker Botanical Gardens were to Don. So, I thought it was essential for family and friends to know that Master Gardeners were there and I wanted the non-gardeners who were there to know that we are especially lucky because our gardener friends live on in the gardens of their friends.

I said that Don lived on in the garden of most Master Gardeners as we carried home the bounty of his garden time and time again. I said we arrived home with small plants and being as they were Don’s plants, they quickly settled in and grew quickly and well and continue to live from year to year. I told them I went out in my garden before the funeral and stroked the plants that Don had given me as well as given many, many Master Gardeners. And in a way he remains there. The names of the plants have escaped me, but I know the two places in my garden where Don’s flowers thrive and I welcome their blooms every year. I said Don was an essential part of Master Gardeners and we all learned from him time and time again. He was an essential part of the old guard, so to speak, in Master Gardeners and he will be missed. I said that Cindy, his wife, was a lucky lady as he was a fine man who spoke often about how deeply he cared for her.

Peggy Stewart

I worked closely with him during the drip irrigation system installation in the greenhouse. He was dedicated to the irrigation work and also teaching others about it. He was always willing to share his knowledge and expertise. He had a passion for getting azaleas to grow in the Austin area even though it was not suitable for it. But he had successfully grown various types of azaleas at his home.

While we were working on the Rain Water Harvesting System at the Zilker Botanical Garden Center, Don helped to fix the irrigation system required for the azaleas beds.

He was always eager to help with a smiling face. We really miss him.

Peggy adds: After family and Master Gardeners, one of Don’s loves was the time he spent as a Drill Instructor in the Air Force. I mention this because the formal ceremony closed with an Air Force Honor Guard of two men carrying a folded flag to the front of the room. They formally unfolded it, held it taut as the military taps played at funerals came on the intercom. The Honor Guard then refolded the flag and gave it to Don’s widow. It was beautifully solemn and Don would have loved it.

Ratna Gani

I came to know Don Telge through the Travis County Master Gardener Association in 2003.

I worked with Don planting some azaleas in Zilker Botanical Garden. He was responsible for reviving the existing azaleas that were there also. He did not shake his head and say it can’t be done or you can’t grow azaleas in Austin like many of us said, instead he mixed the soil with great care, batch by batch, creating a perfect recipe for the azaleas to grow. He used a tumbling machine which was slow. Most of us complained about the slowness and the noise of the machine. But Don had the patience of a saint and wanted to get the soil right. While I was there I noticed many Zilker workers asking him to help fix the broken sprinklers. He would help them all and did so much work. Whenever I see an azalea blooming I think about Don — his hand always extended to give a handshake in a friendly hello — and a friendly smile and hugs for all.

Venkappa Gani

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Ratna Gani

I will miss Don’s sense of humor, big smiles, generosity, knowledge and those “bear hug” greetings.

He was always at the first of the line to volunteer.

He was truly a MASTER gardener and now he is gardening in God’s garden.

Susan Jung
Remembering Don Telge

Don always seemed to remember you, even if you hadn’t worked together recently. I know a lot of us will miss his smiles and warm sense of humor.

*Elaine Dill*

Don was someone I could always count on for a big smile and hug. He was one of the first MGs who really welcomed me into the group. I’ll miss him. Praying for his family.

*Cheryl Harison*

Don was a good friend, always smiling, greeting me with a hug, humorous and kind of spirit. I will miss him too...

*Tommie Clayton*

I am very saddened to hear of Don’s death as he was, indeed, a delightful Master Gardener. Very dedicated to our organization, especially the greenhouse, where he worked countless hours. I will never think of Don without remembering the big smile he always wore and always happy to see and visit with all of us!

We have certainly lost a dear gardening friend!

*Carolyn Williams*

We’ve lost our good friend, Don Telge. I remember working with Don at our greenhouse and his eagerness to share with others as a speaker for the TCMGA.

*Mike McGiffin*

I had the pleasure of receiving many hugs from this dear man, and enjoyed our projects even more when Don and I worked on them together. He was full of life, light and joy. He was fun-loving and extremely dedicated ... I am already missing him. Peaceful thoughts to all his family.

*Sue Nazar*

I had the pleasure of knowing Don through the the greenhouse and spent many hours with him talking about the irrigation system, plants or just life in general. Including working with Don setting up our booth at the Zilker Garden Festival. He always made me laugh and I treasured his love of life. He will be greatly missed and for much more than for his welcoming hugs.

*Anne Van Nest*

I’ve heard many other Master Gardeners say that Don was the first person to make them feel welcome to the group, a tradition he continued as long as we knew him. You couldn’t help but laugh in his presence — what a gift of light he was to our group and the community.

*Vicki Blachman*

Don Telge will be remembered for the jovial, sweet man who donated so many hours to the T.C. Master Gardener projects. I know that I enjoyed his kind and friendly manner on numerous occasions.

*Joy Ruth*

My heartfelt condolences to Don’s family on the loss of this kind, good-natured and industrious man. He was a Master Gardener buddy and I learned something valuable about gardening from him every time we visited. He will be missed. Not sure if there is a family connection to Telge Road in NW Houston, but I always think of him whenever I drive past.

*Patty Leander*

And the honor of the last word goes to Don Telge ...

“Don’t cry for me, I have had a marvelous life, seen most of our great nation, traveled much of the world, met and worked with some great people.”
Leaffooted Bugs
by Wizzie Brown

Leaffooted bugs are sometimes thought to be stink bugs, which are a closely related insect. Leaffooted bugs are larger than stink bugs and have an elongated body. Some leaffooted bugs have an expanded region on their hind leg that looks similar to a leaf, hence the name leaffooted bug (Figure 1). Adult insects are fairly large and grayish-brown.

Immatures, or nymphs, look similar to adults, but may differ in color and lack the expanded region on the leg until closer to adulthood (Figure 2). Nymphs also lack fully developed wings.

Leaffooted bugs feed on a variety of fruits, nuts and seeds, but I most often get calls from people who have them on tomatoes, peppers or sunflowers. The insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts and puncture fruit or seeds to suck out plant juices. The opening left behind can allow access to secondary invaders.

Leaffooted bugs can be managed by hand-picking (be sure to wear gloves if utilizing this method), sucking off the plant with a hand-held vacuum or by spraying plants with pesticides. If choosing to use a pesticide, read the product label and make sure it can be used in the area you are treating (i.e. vegetable garden).
Plant Propagation
Friday, June 3, 2011, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Travis County AgriLife Extension Office
1600-B Smith Rd.,
Austin, Texas

Plants have developed many methods to ensure survival. Learn propagation techniques which take advantage of some of these methods to create multiple plants from a single plant. Discover the importance of the propagation media, moisture, light, humidity, temperature, rooting hormones which ensure success. Examples of propagation by seeds, leaf and stem cuttings will be covered.

This free seminar is presented by Marian Stasney and Susan Jung of the Travis County Master Gardeners, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County.

For more information see www.tcmastergardeners.org or call the Master Gardener Public Gardening Help Desk at (512) 854-9600.

Rain Gardens
Saturday, June 18, 2011, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road,
Austin, Texas 78746

Excess stormwater carries urban landscape contaminants into storm drains and soil erosion causes sediments to accumulate in our water resources. Dr. Dotty Woodson, Water Resources Specialist with Texas Agrilife Extension, will tell us how to protect streams, rivers and lakes by building a rain garden.

These lovely gardens are attractive landscape features planted with perennial native plants designed to absorb stormwater which filters it through plant roots and soil microorganisms. Attend this free presentation and you’ll be ready to make your own beautiful solution.

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. For more information see www.tcmastergardeners.org or call the Master Gardener Help Desk at (512) 854-9600.

Central Texas Lawn Care
Thursday, July 14, 2011, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road,
Austin, Texas 78746

Central Texas weather is presenting us with more challenges than usual in the landscape, especially with lawns. Master Gardener, Jerry Naiser will provide you with solutions for growing a healthy lawn.

Topics will include choosing the right type of turf for your soil conditions, irrigation, fertilization, proper mowing techniques and how to diagnose and treat pests and diseases.

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. For more information see www.tcmastergardeners.org or call the Master Gardener Help Desk at (512) 854-9600.
Coming Events

**The Joys of Container Gardening**

**Friday, July 15, 2011,**
**10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Texas AgriLife Extension Office,
1600-B Smith Rd,
Austin TX

Blooming flowers and vegetables can thrive in a container! This gardening method is especially useful if space is limited. Containers may also serve as accent points on the patio or in the garden. Learn how to select a container and the right soil, discover ideal container plants, and witness arranging techniques you can replicate to create your own mini-garden.

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. For more information see www.tcmastergardeners.org or call the Master Gardener Help Desk at (512) 854-9600.

**Fall Vegetable Gardening**

**Saturday, August 6, 2011,**
**10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Zilker Botanical Garden
2220 Barton Springs Road,
Austin, Texas 78746

Attention: Vegetable Gardeners...cooler weather gives you an opportunity to grow and enjoy food that flourishes in the fall and winter months. Broccoli, lettuce, Swiss chard, radishes and spinach are just a few of the favorites that grow well here. Join Master Gardener Patty Leader to learn about these varieties and strategies for bringing a bountiful fall harvest to your table!

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. For more information see www.tcmastergardeners.org or call the Master Gardener Help Desk at (512) 854-9600.
Carolyn Williams, President
Manda Rash, Immediate Past President
Rosalie Russell, Vice President for Programs
Cher Groody, Vice President for Education
Margarine Beaman, Volunteer Coordinator for Projects
Richard Moline, Co-Volunteer Coordinator for Trainees
Pat Mokry, Co-Volunteer Coordinator for Trainees
Susan Jung, Secretary
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The End...

Time to get out and garden!