



Brazos County Master Gardener Newsletter

Gardening News for Central Texas Brazos Valley
Volume 4, Issue 4

Contributing Guest Editor: Laura Biddle
July/August 2010

From the Guest Editor;

Around this time of year, we begin to understand the truthfulness of the slogan “fall is for planting.” High winds dry plants out quickly, and little to no rainfall becomes common. Items planted in spring have not had adequate time to establish their root systems, whereas items planted since the fall can go longer without watering.

The hose-dragging, brow-mopping days are at hand despite our hopes for a cool summer in accompaniment with the unusually cold temperatures of winter. The summer is an opportune time to sit in the A/C while planning seed and bulb purchases to plant in the fall. Just think positive- cool weather is not that far in the future...

The Brazos County Master Gardeners have planned a year that is packed with informative and entertaining seminars and programs so check the calendar at www.brazosmg.com.

New to our website:

A section on **Weeds** in Gardening Resources, and the brochure for the **Arboretum** located at the Demonstration Idea Garden (D.I.G.) can be found under Trees.

We will continue to add new features and information, so visit it often.

We invite your comments and suggestions. Contact us at brazosmg@ag.tamu.edu

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Over the next few issues, the GIG will highlight trees planted in the arboretum of the Demonstration Idea Garden, D.I.G. The trees featured in this issue are **Bald Cypress** and **Chinese Lacebark Elm**. The information was compiled and written by Roy Vaughan, President of the Brazos County Master Gardener Association.

BALD CYPRESS

Taxodium distichum

(Tax-OH-dee—um DIS-tick-um) River cypress, White cypress,
Yellow cypress, Red cypress, Black cypress
Southern cypress, Tidewater cypress, Gulf cypress, Sabino-tree



Image Courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden

Enduring from the time of the dinosaurs, this ancient deciduous conifer is native to our region. It can live for centuries and might grow 150 feet tall and spread just as wide; however, the average landscape size is 70 feet high and 40 feet wide.

- Extremely long-lived and fast growing, especially the first ten years or so
- Thrives in waterlogged sites as well as rather dry soil and all conditions between
- Develops root “knees” in water, wet soil and poorly drained locations.
- When planting in dryer conditions, the plant’s provenance is important. Plants from central Texas origins do fine, but those from Louisiana swamps or the gulf coast are less tolerant of alkaline soil.
- No serious disease or pest problems, except stressed plants may experience bagworms, spider mites, or crown gall- resistant to cotton root rot.
- Drought tolerant once established.

A picturesque, wispy, specimen having a strong central trunk and a symmetrical pyramid shape of distinctive layered branches adorned with delicate feathery foliage that produce a dramatic autumn show.

- Site carefully, very long-lived, growing high and wide, allow 70-100 feet.
- Buttressed flaring base with large lateral roots and “knees” in wet locations
- Adapts to urban conditions - street heat and polluted air
- Useful in Xeriscape to waterscapes

“The most useful of all coniferous trees for limy garden soils breaks with the traditions of its relatives by dropping its leaves in autumn.----But never was a shedding for a more worthy cause. The bald or river cypress turns by stages from its summer grey green, to a glowing fawn, and thence to a rich cinnamon and in its process provides one of the true spectacles of autumn.” Scott Ogden, *Gardening success with Difficult Soils*.



CHINESE LACEBARK ELM

Ulmus parvifolia

(ULL-mus par-vee-FOAL-ee-ah)

Chinese elm, Lacebark elm

This deciduous non-native is a medium size shade tree with a rounded crown. Its mature growth averages 30 feet tall, spreading 40 feet wide.

- Low maintenance, but thin bark vulnerable to trimmers
- Tolerant of most growing conditions
- Easy to grow in any soil, even wet, compacted soil (see exception below)
- Very fast growing and relatively long-lived
- Insect and disease resistant (even to elm leaf beetle, Dutch elm disease, and Phloem necrosis)
- Weakness in areas where cotton was grown is its susceptibility to cotton root rot, particularly in wet conditions
- Young trees may require staking, due to fast growth of a heavy canopy and a shallow fibrous root system

A graceful shade tree of fine texture and almost evergreen in mild winters; its ornamental value is its lacy-patterned exfoliating bark. Its tolerance to street heat and other city conditions make it one of the best available shade trees for an urban landscape.

- Scaled to fit most residential structures; compact leafing habit gives a full canopy
- Specimen tree or group for screen
- Surface root likely in heavy soils; plant 30 feet from structures and plant beds to avoid root intrusion
- Not to be confused with Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) sometimes erroneously labeled “Chinese elm”, which may be the ultimate trash tree, and should not to be planted

“As a fast growing shade tree in Texas, Lacebark elm is tops.” Dale Groom, *Dale Groom’s Texas Gardening Guide*.



Fall Blooming Bulbs for Texas

By Charla Anthony

The wonderful oxblood lily and red spider lily – grown by Texas’ early settlers -- deserve to be planted more today. These bulbs blossom suddenly, adding color to heat-stressed Texas gardens.

Introduced to Texas from Argentina sometime after 1865, Oxblood lily (*Rhodophiala bifida*) has proved to be an outstanding, durable bulb. Red spider lily (*Lycoris radiata*) commonly known as hurricane or Guernsey lily, has been cultivated since ancient times in China and Japan. It was introduced to the United States in the early 1800s.

These perennial bulbs have a lot in common, including the name “schoolhouse lily,” because both often bloom near the time that school starts. They are members of the amaryllis family and are considered heirloom plants as they have naturalized in the South. They are often found flourishing at abandoned home sites.

Each is drought-tolerant, pest-resistant and thrives in almost any non-soggy soil. Both produce most of their foliage during the winter and spring, go dormant in the summer, and then flower in late summer or early fall. They are propagated by dividing mature clumps of bulbs, ideally just after the foliage starts dying down.



Oxblood lily

After late summer soaking rains, oxblood lilies will sprout almost overnight. Measuring 10 to 14 inches, each stalk is topped with a cluster of two to six brilliant red trumpet-shaped blooms.

Planted in front of evergreen shrubs such as dwarf yaupon, they look like red miniature amaryllis on parade. Oxbloods thrive in full sun or light shade. Long, bright-green leaves resembling liriopé emerge after flowering.

Divide this sturdy bulb almost any time of year or leave them to naturalize, undivided for years. Golf-ball-size bulbs may bloom the first year after dividing, but smaller bulbs may need a year’s growth before producing blooms.

Oxblood lilies are available in a rosy-pink variety, ‘Spathacea’, and orange, ‘Granatiflora’, but they are not common.

Red spider lily

Lycoris radiata 'Guernsey', which is popularly grown in old Southern gardens under big shade trees, will bloom suddenly in September. Leafless stalks 18 to 20 inches tall are topped with many coral-red flowers. This lily makes an excellent cut flower.

The stamens, or pollen-bearing structures of the flowers, are exceptionally long, giving the blooms a spider-like appearance. Elegant clusters of flowers last about two weeks, perhaps longer if they are protected from wind and sun. They look beautiful when massed in groups or planted in beds of ground cover.

After blooming, long strap like leaves emerge, persist through winter, and die down in spring.

Other species of lycoris bloom yellow, pink, or white, with varying degrees of hardiness and vigor.

Like oxblood lilies, spider lilies require little or no water when dormant.

Lycoris bulbs are low in toxicity, but be aware of their poisonous potential, particularly if small children and pets are present.

These bulbs can be hard to find at commercial garden centers, but they are worth tracking down because they add a wonderful garden surprise toward the end of the growing season. See if your favorite garden store plans to offer them or will order them for you. If not, online sources include www.southernbulbs.com, www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com , and www.oldhousegardens.com .

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Newest Texas Superstar™

Dakota Gold

Read about it at

<http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=1905>



On the Road

Japanese Tea Garden

Donna Murray

Brazos County Master Gardener

Growing up just outside of San Antonio provided a wealth of school field trip opportunities but a stand out in my memory was what I called the “Sunken Garden”. I was awed by the garden in a hole in the ground. The pagoda made of rocks, bridges that crisscrossed a pond with huge fish (koi), a maze of walkways, overlooks, a waterfall and beautiful plants, all impressed me. A recent trip home gave me the chance to visit the restored garden, and while driving there I wondered- will it still wow me? Yes it did.

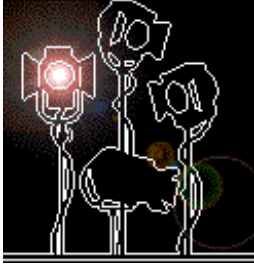


The history of the garden is a study in ethnic diversity. In 1840, German masons used limestone from the quarry to supply the local construction market. The Alamo Cement Company was incorporated in 1880 and its’ workforce, primarily Mexican-Americans, lived in a village on the site. In 1917 prison labor was used to transform the hole in the ground into the envisioned oriental-style garden. The entrance, a replica of a Japanese torii gate, is the work of Mexican-born artist Dionicio Rodriguez.

In 1926, the city invited Kimi Eizo Jingu, a Japanese-American artist to live in the park and maintain the garden. The family was evicted in 1942 because of anti-Japanese sentiment of World War II. It was renamed the Chinese Tea Gardens until 1984 when the name was restored to the original “Japanese Tea Garden”. The Bexar County Master Gardener Association was part of restoration that began in 2005 and the garden was re-opened in 2008. No wonder it is designated as a Texas Civil Engineering Landmark, a Registered Texas Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Japanese Tea Garden, a worthy addition to your itinerary, is located next to the San Antonio Zoo and Breckenridge Park. <http://visitsanantonio.com/visitors/play/attraction-details/index.aspx?id=2668>



In the Spotlight



Earth-Kind uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum gardening and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting our environment.

The objective of Earth-Kind is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a new horticultural system based on real-world effectiveness and environmental responsibility.

The principal goals of Earth-Kind include:

- ★ Water conservation
- ★ The safe use and handling of fertilizers & pesticides
- ★ Reduction of yard wastes entering urban landfills
- ★ Landscaping for Energy Conservation

As your interest and knowledge in these areas grows, you will have an increased awareness of the many programs, practices, and activities that are Earth-Kind. Working together, we can make a difference in conserving and protecting our valuable natural resources.

For more information, see our Web site:

EarthKind.tamu.edu

Landscape Mulch:

One of the best methods of growing healthy plants and conserving water at the same time is to use mulch in the landscape. Experienced gardeners have long known the secret of mulching the garden and all its benefits. What is a mulch? It's simply a protective ground covering that saves water, reduces evaporation, prevents erosion, controls weeds, and in the case of organic mulches, enriches the soil. It almost sounds too good to be true!

Mulches can be classified as organic or inorganic. The organic mulches are most popular and include straw, leaves, bark, pine needles, compost, and similar materials. Inorganic mulches include rocks, rock chips, synthetic fabrics, and other non-plant materials.

A big advantage of mulching is it reduces soil moisture loss through evaporation. Mulches also reduce the soil's exposure to wind which, in turn, reduces water loss through evaporation.

The insulating quality of mulch helps to keep the soil cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. By maintaining more even soil moisture and temperature, mulch promotes better root growth and plant health.



Erosion control also is important, especially in steep areas. Mulch helps to reduce rain splash and runoff, which in some cases will also help prevent the spread of plant disease. Mulch also suppresses the growth of many weeds. A 3- to 4-inch layer of organic mulch should be sufficient to prevent sunlight from reaching the soil, thereby reducing the chance of weed growth. Any weed seedlings that do manage to germinate and break through the layer of mulch are easily pulled. A mix of coarse and fine mulch will help reduce seed germination.

Mulches should not be piled up against the trunks of plants, but rather form a donut around the base of trees and shrubs.

Another benefit of organic mulches is that they enrich the soil as they decay, forming a rich, dark organic material called humus that provides nutrients for the soil and improves its texture. Last but not least, mulch has aesthetic value. There is a range of colors and textures. The uniform quality of most mulches when added to the garden floor serves much the same aesthetic purpose as a carpet in a home.

So what are some of these marvelous mulches?



Bark: This mulch is the most popular and widely available. Barks are available in bags or can be purchased some places in bulk. Bark is relatively easy to apply, but some types have a tendency to float away in heavy rains. Pine is the most common, but cypress and redwood are popular. Cypress resists floating.

Chipper debris: A mixture of shredded bark, wood chips and leaves from tree-trimming operations, chipper debris is non-uniform so it's not as attractive as many other types. This would provide a rustic effect for outlying areas of the yard where fine texture may not be important. Also may create nitrogen deficiency as it breaks down unless first aged.

Partially Decomposed Compost: This makes an excellent mulch. You can make your own compost or buy it. The lack of uniformity may make it less attractive in exposed areas. Compost may also contain some weed seeds that can be objectionable.

Leaves: Readily available and inexpensive, leaves work best if shredded before applying as a mulch. Large, unshredded leaves tend to form an undesirable "mat" which repels water.



Pine Needles: Great mulch, especially for acid-loving plants. Slow to decompose, pine needles, last a long time. Avoid using near wood fences or walls due to potential fire hazard.



Inorganic Mulches: River stones, pebbles, and gravel chips are all good mulches. Though they do nothing to improve the soil, these materials can be striking, and should be used carefully so they enhance rather than detract from the overall landscape design. They will not require replenishing as frequently as organic materials, but fallen leaves and other trash can detract from their uniform appearance and be difficult to clean.

White rock is very bright and reflective and may make surrounding area hotter. Landscape Fabrics: Special woven fabrics that allow air and water to pass through, while reducing weeds and evaporation. These materials can be used in conjunction with other mulches. Fabric is laid on the soil and a mulch is placed on top. Do not use solid sheet plastic, which inhibits air and water movement and promotes root rot.

Many fresh, undecomposed organic mulches, like sawdust, grass clippings, straw and chipper waste, may draw nitrogen from the soil as the material breaks down, causing a temporary nitrogen deficiency. Microbes tend to out-compete plant roots for the available nutrients released as they break down. Therefore, a recommendation is to allow these materials to partially break down before using them, and/or supplement with nitrogen fertilizer.

Since organic mulches decompose over time, they will need to be replenished or replaced periodically. It's a good idea to check the garden every spring and renew areas where the mulch has gotten thin. There is no need to remove the old and replace with new mulch, since soil organisms will work the decomposing organic matter into the soil, increasing the health of the soil.



Demo Garden Growers

Laura Biddle
Brazos County Master Gardener



Tithonia rotundifolia or **Mexican sunflower** is blooming it's heart out in the Demonstration Idea Garden (the DIG) at the Brazos County Extension Office. Attractive to butterflies, the bright orange, zinnia-like flowers appear from summer to frost. Drought tolerant and heat resistant, it is considered an annual in the Brazos Valley. Planted in full sun, it is easily grown from seeds sown in the fall or spring. Give tithonia plenty of space, as plants can grow to be 6 feet tall and 4 feet wide.



ESPERANZA

Ryan Rychetsky
Brazos County Master Gardener

Tecoma stans, esperanza, or yellow bells, is a fine Texas Superstar. A popular heat loving ornamental, its showy, bright yellow flowers are 2 ½ inches long. They stand out against shiny green foliage during a long bloom cycle, from spring to fall.

Found throughout the tropical zones of the Americas, esperanza grows best in full sun and in most soil types that are well drained. A small to medium, shrubby perennial, it can grow to be 6 feet tall and 4 feet wide. Minimal watering is necessary to maintain healthy plants, even in periods of dry weather. In winter, protect plants by mounding mulch and soil around the base or crown.

Esperanza provides a nice tropical effect as a border or background planting, and will attract bees and hummingbirds to your garden. Varieties include the popular yellow flowering “Gold Star”, “Orange Jubilee”, a cultivar with orange flowers; and “Sunrise”, a variety with dark veined golden flowers. To learn more about esperanza and other Texas Superstar plants, visit the website: <http://texassuperstar.com>

August Garden Tasks



- Prune perennials, including some roses, removing no more than one third of their overall growth. Fertilize, use compost if available, and water thoroughly.
- Sow wildflower seeds, including bluebonnets in August and September. They will germinate and be well established for spring blooms. Plant seeds in prepared soil and water.
- Add compost to planting beds, especially in areas such as vegetable gardens that have been in full production all summer. You can also apply a half inch of compost to turfgrass; this top-dressing will filter into soil, improve drainage and moisture retention.
- Sow seeds of cool season annuals indoors or in protected areas. Snapdragon, alyssum, and pansies can then be planted in fall when temperatures are cooler.

Charla Anthony

Red Stemmed Apple Mint Flavored Iced Tea And How to Grow the Mint

Tony Scanapico
Brazos County Master Gardener

Most gardeners know that growing the typical black/ green teas in Texas is not practical. However, growing herbs for herbal flavored teas is widespread; has been throughout history, and opens avenues to exciting options. Though many who are unfamiliar with herbs and herb flavored teas may think making them is a very difficult undertaking, it is really not so. Remember how easily and quickly Mrs. Rabbit made a dose of Chamomile tea for Peter Rabbit after he became sick (from eating too many vegetables in Mr. McGregor's garden). Today, an easy way of making herb flavored iced tea today is by "cheating" and using commercial tea as the base and then flavoring it.



Here is an herb-iced tea that is easy to make using "Red Stemmed Apple Mint." Keep the process simple by using a family sized tea bag, or three small bags. Place the tea bag(s) into a typical sized teapot, adding six - 6-inch (approximate length) tips of Red Stemmed Apple Mint. Pour boiling water into the pot and let it steep for 7 minutes. Strain the ingredients and the mixture is ready to use. We add a slice of lemon and some sweetener. Our sweetener preference is an artificial one as it dissolves easier than sugar. In addition, with the lemon and mint flavoring there is no aftertaste as with soft drinks and such.



Growing Mints

It is best to grow any mints in containers for the roots spread easily and can become invasive. We have used wooden half whiskey barrels, but they are heavy to move, rot easily and to transplant that large of a mass of material is messy and difficult to handle. We have switched to resin based imitation half barrels. These are a little smaller, hold up nicely, are lighter in weight and being resin material don't dry out as quickly as the wooden barrels. Fill the barrels with potting soil and place them on bricks to help with drainage. Mints need lots of water to grow well and full sun. If you use them in the natural environment, they can make for an excellent bog plant. After planting them by a water source, step back quickly for, I believe, they think of themselves as being a relative of kudzu. For fire ant control, when the ants invade the barrels, (and it is likely if the barrel is placed in the garden) Texas AgriLife Extension Service recommends applying a broadcast bait product <http://fireant.tamu.edu/broadcastbait/products/> .

Where to find Red Stemmed Apple Mint plants

- ☀ Find a fellow gardener that has apple mint in their garden and ask for about ten soft tip cuttings, 10 to 12 inches long. Put cuttings in a jar of water in a window with indirect sunlight. Keep the water topped off, as it will evaporate. After a few weeks, there will be nice root growth suitable for planting.
- ☀ Purchase plants at nurseries, if not offered, ask if they will special order for you. Look for online sources.
- ☀ Shop at specialized plant sales, such as Herb Society of America. For sale dates in Texas and information go to websites: South Texas Unit – www.herbsociety-stu.org Pioneer Unit- www.herbsocietypioneer.org

When you have a good growth of Red Stemmed Apple Mint, fix a glass of herb flavored iced tea. You can sip it while reading a copy of Susan Wittig Albert's Cottage Tales books to catch up on Beatrix Potter's latest escapades in the Lake District. Or you can get a copy of Miss Potter's 1903 first book, The Tales of Peter Rabbit, and enjoy stepping back in time to the days before we had the delightful drink we call herb flavored iced tea.



Safety Tips

Sun Safety

By Laura Biddle

- ☀ Use waterproof/sweatproof sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or greater 30 minutes before sun exposure and reapply after extended exposure
- ☀ Wear sunglasses with total UV protection
- ☀ Wear wide-brimmed hats, long sleeved shirts, and pants designed for warm weather in light colors
- ☀ Avoid direct sun exposure as much as possible during the hours of 10 a. m. and 3 p.m.
- ☀ Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water
- ☀ Pace yourself – if you begin to get too warm, cool down and take a break!



Shrimp Plant

Laura Biddle
Brazos County Master Gardener

Attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees, the shrimp plant, *Justicia brandegeana*, is native to Mexico.

A small shrub ranging from two to three feet in height and one to two feet wide, it is considered an annual in the Brazos Valley.

A perennial in warmer areas, in the Brazos Valley area it freezes down to the ground each winter and grows back from its roots each spring.

The blooms of shrimp plants emerge in bracts during the summer. Bracts range in color from orange to rust, lemon, and red. Some varieties have lime green leaves, but the blooms are what make this plant unique. Due to twiggly stems, light pruning between blooms will encourage bushier growth.

The name shrimp plant comes from the shape of the bloom. Looking closely, one can easily picture the tasty crustacean when viewing the attractive blooms. Planting in large groups makes an appealing display for human and hummingbird alike.

Plant in full sun to partial shade in well drained soil. Propagate with stem cutting in the spring. The shrimp plant will require supplemental water during dry periods.

"Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration."
~Lou Erickson

Gardenline: Your Garden Questions Answered

Each Wednesday when you call Texas AgriLife Extension, Brazos County at (979)823-0129, a Master Gardener will research your question and give you an answer based on the unique garden challenges we face in our county. Master Gardeners have gone through extensive training on various horticultural topics and are certified to distribute information supported by Extension and research of Texas A&M University. It is our mission as Master Gardeners to bring you quality, relevant, and accurate information on your gardening concerns. So, write down the number and keep it handy so when a pesky insect invades or something is not quite right with your garden, you can pick up the phone and give us a call.

Gardenline: Wednesdays 9-1



979-823-0129, email: brazosmg@ag.tamu.edu

You can now find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/brazosmg



UPCOMING EVENTS

Earth-Kind Butterfly Gardening for Beginners

July 8, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

Join Brazos County Master Gardener Suzanne Milstead at the College Station Library to learn about **Earth-Kind Butterfly Gardening**. Learn the Earth-Kind approach for attracting butterflies to your garden through Earth-Kind practices. Learn about butterfly food sources, host plants, and other ways to support and encourage a butterfly friendly habitat.

Brazos County Master Gardener Program-Open to Public **Fall Color for Your Garden**

The Brazos Center, Rm. 102

Tuesday, August 24th 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Speaker

Kathy Huber, Garden Editor, Houston Chronicle

Brazos County Master Gardener Plant Sale

September 25, 2010

Join the Brazos County Master Gardener Association at their fall plant sale. There will be a wide selection of unusual and unique plants, adapted to Brazos County. Carefully selected Heirloom, Pass-a-long plants and more from the gardens of local Master Gardeners also will be available for purchase. Proceeds from this sale will be used to further the educational programs of the Brazos County Master Gardener Association, a non-profit association.

Watch for additional details.

Rainwater Harvesting

An Earth-Kind Approach to Water Conservation

Hosted By

Texas AgriLife Extension - Brazos County Master Gardeners

October 16, 2010 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Brazos Center, Bryan TX

Speakers Justin Mechell, Extension Program Specialist I &
J. Brent Clayton, Extension Assistant

- Texas Water and You
- Rainwater Harvesting Basics

Learn how to capture and use rainwater in your landscape and make your own rainwater barrel to take home. Learn about rainwater harvesting – how to capture and store rainwater to lower usage of municipal water supplies and protect this valuable natural resource. Program cost of \$40 per participant includes rain barrel, program handouts, & refreshments.

Registration information will be available soon.

Brazos County



Master Gardener
Association

Brazos County Master Gardeners

Speakers Bureau



Brazos County Master Gardeners can help you find a knowledgeable speaker on a wide range of gardening topics to give a program to your club or organization. Whether the purpose of your program is to inspire or inform - our Speaker's Bureau is a great starting point to find speakers who can educate, motivate, and keep your organization on the right 'garden path'. Our clients trust us to present environmentally sound horticultural principles and practices. We offer presentations on many topics, including those listed below. For further information, call 979-823-0129, email brazosmg@ag.tamu.edu.

Texas Superstars
Home Landscaping
Butterfly Gardening
Poisonous Plants
Container Gardening
Perennials for Brazos County
Vegetable Gardening
Pests you can Conquer

Gourds
Pass Along Plants
Propagation
Rainwater Harvesting
Composting
Roses
Turf Management
Herbs

Brazos County



Master Gardener
Association

2010 Brazos County Master Gardener Association



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Donna Murray
Ryan Rychetsky

If you are interested in sharing our newsletter with a friend or **subscribing online** to the e-newsletter, go to www.brazosmg.com. Please contact us with comments and suggestions, at brazosmg@ag.tamu.edu.

Brazos County Master Gardeners is a program of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Extension educational programs are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.