



Landscape design seminars to offer practical tips

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office

The Master Gardener volunteers have planned two informative seminars Saturday that should be of interest to many area gardeners.

Plan Before You Plant, a hands-on landscape design workshop, will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., in La Marque. Preregistration is required. Email galv3(at)wt.net or call 281-534-3413, Ext. 12.

With some basic tips, even a beginner can master landscaping to improve the appearance and value of his or her home. The task of creating a landscape that complements your home and meets your needs might seem daunting. However, following a few basic landscaping principles can start you moving in the right direction.

A home and its landscaping should be harmonious with each other. Achieving such harmony is sometimes possible intuitively, but if you're more serious about complementing your home with your landscaping, you really need to take matters to the next level — developing a landscape design.

Landscape design is an art form and few other undertakings in the landscape are likely to inspire hesitation and second-guessing. Too many folks begin their landscaping



PHOTO BY Dr. William M. Johnson

at a garden center when they see some new plants they think are pretty. The new plants are brought to the home and the proud owner wanders around a bit looking for a spot to plant them.

Keep in mind you needn't have a five-figure budget to employ a landscape architect to achieve an exceptional landscape. Whether your landscape venture is a do-it-yourself multiphase project or a Saturday trip to the nursery, the key is understanding how to select your plants purposefully and place them thoughtfully. The result is sure to bring you years of enjoyment.

Of all our horticulture programs on vegetative gardening, growing fruit trees, annuals and perennials, disease and insect management and others, landscape design has been the most daunting seminar to offer.

The challenge has not been bringing together all the vari-

The benefits of an attractive landscape go beyond impressing the neighbors. The homeowner should feel satisfaction in seeing the landscape when he or she returns home after the workday.



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in seeing the landscape when he or she returns home after a workday. A well-designed landscape can make a yard look attractive while improving your property value.

Your aim might be to only refresh, refine or fix problems areas or to change with your taste and your gardening discoveries. Either way, improving your home landscape will add to enjoyment of outdoor living area.

The next seminar is titled The Fabulous Fragrant Frangipani and will be conducted from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office.

Frangipani is another name for plumeria and this ornamental also is known as the Hawaiian lei flower. Plumeria is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful and delightful plants grown in our subtropical growing environment.

Do you already grow or have an interest in plumeria? Then plan to attend this program to be presented by Master Gardener Loretta Osteen and several members of the Plumeria Society of America.

Topics to be discussed include proven varieties, proper fertilization, soil and light requirements, pruning, propagation methods, and methods of overwintering.

The program is free of charge, but preregistration is required. Email galv3(at)wt.net or call 281-534-3413, Ext. 12.

Program participants who preregister also will be eligible to receive a variety of door prize drawings, including potted juvenile plumeria, seedling plumeria and other plants.

Plumeria can be maintained as a shrub or small tree grown in the garden or in a container on the patio. Plumeria is well known for its striking, intensely fragrant, and spiral-shaped blooms, which appear

at branch tips from around April through November.

There is absolutely nothing like the sweet fragrance of plumeria in flower, with fragrances reminiscent of jasmine, citrus, spices, gardenia and other delightful scents. These flowers are treasured for their durability, fragrances and colors of whites, yellows, pinks, reds and multiple pastels.

The enchanting plumeria can provide a tropical addition to almost any landscape and deserve wider use.

