

Add gardening activities to your August calendar

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office

I have to admit my biases when it comes to the Galveston County Master Gardener volunteers. They're not only a great group of volunteers, but they bring remarkable skills and expertise in a variety of horticultural areas.

Two such master gardeners are Luke Stripling and O.J. Miller.

Stripling is widely acknowledged for his vegetable gardening expertise. He will be sharing his expertise in an upcoming educational program titled "The ABCs for Successful Fall Gardening."

The program will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque.

Preregistration is required to ensure availability of program handouts. Contact the County AgriLife Extension Office to make your reservation. Call 281-534-3413, Ext. 12, or email [galv3\(at\)wt.net](mailto:galv3(at)wt.net)

Fall gardening can be undertaken one of two ways. Either be prepared to make some critical mistakes and learn accordingly or attend the upcoming educational program titled "The ABCs for Successful Fall Gardening" to learn from a seasoned gardener who already knows what works through years of experience.



PHOTO BY Dr. William M. Johnson

Despite warm summer temperatures, August is the recommended time to plant many types of vegetables for a fall garden.

Stripling has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience on home vegetable gardening. He will provide information on a variety of topics including soil preparation, types of vegetables that do well during the fall and winter season, variety selection, fertilization and pest control.

Successful fall gardening begins much earlier than the official start of the fall season. Proper timing is probably the most important factor in successful fall gardening. Regardless of variety selected or cultural practices used, if a gardener does not do the right thing at the right time, his or her success rate will decrease.

Many vegetables are well-adapted to planting in the summer for fall harvest.

Planting a fall garden will extend the gardening season so you can continue to harvest fresh produce during the fall season and even into the winter.

Despite our hot summer temperatures, August is the recommended time to plant many types of vegetables for a fall garden. Many gardeners miss this opportunity to have a successful fall garden because they wait until temperatures have moderated to plant.

Some vegetables will need to be seeded or transplanted in August in order to provide adequate time to reach maturity before the onset of cold weather. Some of the best quality garden vegetables in the Upper Texas Gulf Coast are produced and harvested during the fall season when



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Dr. William Johnson is a horticulturist with the Galveston County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Visit his website at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>.

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warm, sunny days are followed by cool, humid nights.

So if you want to harvest garden fresh vegetables this fall, start out on the right track by attending this educational program.

If you interested in updating your home landscape or making major revisions to an existing landscape, consider utilizing palms as a component of the landscape. Make plans to attend our upcoming seminar “Culture and Care of Palms in Galveston County” to be conducted on from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office.

There are few groups of plants that can offer such distinctive beauty and presence in a landscape. This factor along with increasingly more palm species becoming available to consumers has resulted in something akin to a palm craze.

Whether you are new and starting your first landscape or an experienced palm collector just adding one more species, there are basic data that will make your growing palms much more successful.

Palm tree enthusiast and Galveston County Master Gardener O.J. Miller has more than 15 years’ experience with palms in our area. His presentation will include an introduction to palms, an overview of the exotic and commonly found palms at nurseries in our area, palm planting methods, palm fertilization, cold tolerance of various palms and proper care.

If you have visited an area nursery recently, you likely will be a bit overwhelmed with the sheer range of palm species offered. The program will include a discussion on the better varieties of palms for Galveston County and the surrounding area.

Nothing makes a statement in a Texas Gulf Coast landscape like a palm! The

tropical appeal and graceful nature of palms can bring reality to your dream landscape.

