

Garden calendar includes educational programs

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



I have to admit that I am tiring a bit from hearing about so many weather records being set this summer (number of successive days with 100-plus temperatures, rainfall deficits, and so on), especially since I have to experience the records firsthand.

So, let me announce some of my own records that did not make the cut: Lawn mower noise has been at its lowest since record keeping started, sales of replacement blades for lawn edgers are at record low levels. Need I say anything about umbrellas sales?

One good thing about our Texas Gulf Coast summers is that we get to anticipate and to better appreciate the upcoming fall season. With the arrival of September (Sept. 23 at 4:05 a.m. is the start of the fall season, very, very technically speaking anyway), I know in a few weeks I can

look forward to going outside and being pleasantly reinvigorated from the pleasant weather brought on by a “genuine” cool front.

The mere anticipation of cooler days is all that it takes for the ardent gardener to want to till the soil, remove what the summer heat has burned, and plan for a newness of season and spirit.

September’s gardening calendar contains a variety of educational programs for those of you that still have rational optimism that fall is approaching. All programs will be conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St. (FM 519), in La Marque.

There are no fees to attend these programs, but preregistration is required. Call 281-534-3413, Ext. 1-2, or email

galv3(at)wt.net.

Hummingbird garden

Jane Bock will present a Homeowner Tips for a Hummingbird Garden Seminar from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sept. 10.

The PowerPoint presentation will cover how to create a garden for hummingbirds.

To help nurture our colorful hummingbird populations, homeowners can add a plant or two to an existing landscape. Homeowners can create a small hummingbird garden in a sunny barren back corner of a back yard, or turn an entire home landscape into a hummingbird paradise — with a variety of attractive and low maintenance bushes, perennials and annuals.

It’s not difficult to attract the most magnificent of those soul-inspiring creatures but getting started in the right direction is easier when practical guidance is provided.

If you’re in need of such guidance, then be sure to preregister for this seminar.

Square-foot gardening

No room in your yard to grow tomatoes or cucumbers? Is your vegetable garden taking up too much space? Then try a different approach. Master Gardener John Jons will conduct a Square Foot Gardening Seminar from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 17.



August 31, 2011



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>.

News column printed in the Galveston Daily News, The Post, and other Galveston County Newspapers.



Square Foot Gardening has been around for a long time and is a tried and true method for intensive gardening in a small area.

“This popular award winning program teaches you a proven method on how to successfully grow vegetables, flowers or herbs in a 4-foot by 4-foot area,” Jons said. “It’s an ideal way of gardening for novice and experienced gardeners who have a limited amount of space and/or time.”

T-bud propagation

T-budding is most frequently used to multiply a variety that cannot be produced from seed.

Master Gardener Herman Auer will provide Fall T-Bud Propagation of Citrus and Deciduous Fruit Trees Training from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 17.

The training will focus primarily on T-budding citrus trees, although the same procedure also can be used to propagate a number of woody plants, including peaches, nectarines, plums, apples, grapes, roses and others.

T-budding is considered one of the easiest and fastest methods of plant propagation. With a little practice, the right conditions and compatible plants, the percentage of successful unions can be high. Even for the beginner, the percentage of successful unions is usually greater than with other forms of grafting.

Kitchen gardening

As daytime temperatures hopefully moderate and decent rainfall returns as the fall season approaches, this is the time to make plans for a fall kitchen garden.

Mary Demeny, a Galveston County Master Gardener, will discuss vegeta-

ble gardening in your own backyard during her Kitchen Gardening Seminar from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 24.

Gardening on a smaller scale and making use of vegetables interplanted in your flower beds and in pots will be emphasized.

Mary has grown “kitchen gardens” for many years and she has the information you need to garden successfully in our area. Vegetables for discussion include: onions, carrots, lettuce, peppers, okra, beets, broccoli, cabbage, kohlrabi, kale, leeks and more.

