

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office*



October 24, 2018



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>.

**Master Gardeners will conduct a second Fall Plant Sale on Thursday, October 25, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Discovery Garden in Carbide Park (4102 Main Street) in La Marque. A variety of plants will be available including citrus trees, avocados, blueberries, gingers, salvias, bulbs and fall vegetable transplants.**

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

At last, real fall weather temperatures have arrived to start the week and cooler temperatures will grace our area for more than a day or two. Weather predictions for the remainder of week include sunny days which will make it a joy to get out and work in the home vegetable garden.

Experienced gardeners know that an amazing variety of vegetables can be grown here during the cool season from October through early April. And these cool-season vegetables include some of the most delicious, nutritious and popular ones around.

grow and productive fall vegetable. Transplants can be planted now through mid-November. Space plants 12 to 18 inches apart in rows or beds. The 12-inch spacing will produce smaller heads, but total production is greater because you have more plants.

Broccoli is an easy-to-

Broccoli heads are har-



vested when the largest flower buds in the head are about the size of the head of a kitchen match. After the main head is harvested, the plant will produce side florets, and harvesting can continue for several weeks, often doubling the production of each plant.

Other cool-season vegetables include cabbage, carrot, celery, collards, endive, kale, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, mustard, onion, peas (English and snow), rutabaga, shallot, Swiss chard and many herbs, such as thyme, sage, rosemary, oregano, French tarragon, chives, cilantro, dill, mints and parsley. All of these can now be planted from seed or transplants.

Garlic may be planted now through November. Break the bulb into individual cloves, and plant them by pressing the big end down, pointy end up into a prepared bed. The tip of each clove of garlic should be about one-quarter inch below the soil surface. Space the cloves 4-to-6 inches apart in rows spaced about 15 inches apart. Garlic is a slow growing plant and the 15-inch space between rows can be used for intercropping.

Intercropping is a term used when two or more different vegetables are grown in the same space at the same time. Garlic plants will not need the 15 inches between the rows for several months, so a quick-growing vegetable can be grown in that area and harvested before the garlic needs the space. Good choices would include radishes, leaf lettuce, beets and spinach. These

vegetables are not large growers and will be harvested long before the garlic is ready next May.

Intercropping may also be done with other vegetables that are initially spaced far apart, such as cabbage and cauliflower.

Root crops are also excellent for the cool-season vegetable garden. Plant the seeds rather closely to make sure you get a good stand.

Once the seeds of root crops come up, the seedlings must be thinned to the right spacing, or the roots will not develop properly. Some commonly planted root crops and the proper spacing are: beets, 3-to-4 inches; radishes, 2-to-3 inches; turnips, 3 inches; carrots 2 inches; and rutabagas, 4 inches.

If you seek rapid gratification or feel gardening is a challenge, then try radishes—they are easy to grow and some varieties can be harvested just 22 days from planting.

**At a Glance**

**Fall Plant Sale, The Sequel.** 9:00 - 11:00 A.M., Thursday, October 25. Master Gardeners will conduct a plant sale at the Discovery Garden located in Carbide Park (4102 Main Street, La Marque). A variety of plants remaining from the Annual Fall Plant Sale will be available at discounted prices including citrus trees, perennials and cool-season vegetable transplants for planting in the fall vegetable garden.

**“Texas Tuff” Plants for Texas Landscapes.** 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Saturday,

October 27. Galveston County Master Gardener Marie Leal will provide a seminar to discuss landscape plants that perform well in our Gulf Coast growing region. Discussion topics will include plants recommended for local landscapes as well as how to care for them. Conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park (4102-B Main Street, La Marque). Preregistration requested (phone: 281-309-5065; e-mail: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com)).

**Turning Dirt into Soil...guidelines for creating an ideal garden**

**soil.** 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Saturday, October 27. Galveston County Master Gardener Jim Gilliam will explain the difference between dirt and soil, soil structure and characteristics, pH, nutrients, sources and strategies for amending soil, soil testing and cultural practices. He will emphasize how to improve your existing soil. Conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park (4102-B Main Street, La Marque). Preregistration requested (phone: 281-309-5065; e-mail: [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com)).

