

Advanced Home Fruit Training-Southern Texas

Date: February 7 and 8, 2019

Join Gonzales Master Gardeners for the second Advanced Home Fruit Training-- Southern Texas program. Since the climate in Texas is so diverse, this program will focus on fruit in the Southern half of the state. Chaired by Monte Nesbitt, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist, the course will offer an intensive training with a broad overview of fruit growing in Texas. Course will be held at 623 N. Fair Street in Gonzales, TX 78629. You must be a certified Texas Master Gardener and have your Extension Agent's approval to participate.

Course Description: The Advanced Home Fruit Training-- Southern Texas program will prepare master gardeners to assist homeowners in selection, culture and protection in many of the fruits commonly grown in southern Texas landscapes. The course does not deal with production of fruits in commercial orchards.

Emphasis will be placed on the horticulture, training and pest management for fruits commonly planted in home orchards or landscapes that lie in USDA Hardiness Zones 8B and higher (warmer). This area includes all of the Gulf Coast, the Lower Rio Grande Valley and extends north to Travis County in the center of the state, Val Verde County in the west and Angelina County in the east. The course will address culture varieties, disease and insect problems, training and pruning for stone fruits (peaches and plums), blackberries, strawberries, grapes, pecans, pome fruits (apples, pears), figs, pomegranates, blueberries and citrus. Basic fruit tree/vine propagation will also be taught. Participants should come away from this course with working knowledge of the climatic and pest challenges associated with the various fruit crops studied and appropriate variety selection, planting and management practices conducive to successful production.

The course will be taught over two weekdays (Thursday and Friday) and includes 16 hours of classroom instruction.

Course Fee: \$185. Master Gardener who successfully complete their volunteer service component and become certified as Advanced are eligible for a \$50 rebate of the course fee through the Texas Master Gardener Association.

Your course fee includes all course materials, morning and afternoon snacks, lunch on both days and dinner Thursday night. Dinner will include water, tea and soft drinks with wine available for purchase. Participants wishing to bring a guest to the dinner may purchase dinner tickets for \$15 per person.

Accommodations: The Gonzales Master Gardeners have made special arrangements with the La Quinta in Gonzales (located on Highway 183) for a special room rate of \$72 per night (plus taxes) for a standard room (two queens or a king) with a hot breakfast included. You must contact the hotel directly (830-519-4255) and mention the Gonzales Master Gardeners at time of booking to receive this rate.

Gonzales also offers other hotels and several Bed and Breakfast Inns. Contact these facilities directly for more information. We recommend that you book rooms early since the oil fields are busy again.

Registration:

Registration deadline for the course will be January 18, 2019. Participation will be limited to 30 participants. Please limit applications to 3 participants per Master Gardener Association. (Additional spaces may be available shortly before the application deadline).

Planned Syllabus

Advanced Home Fruit Training-- Southern Texas

February 7 and 8, 2019

Chaired by: Monte Nesbitt, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist

623 North Fair Street, Gonzales, TX 78629

Hosted by: Gonzales Master Gardeners, Gonzales, Texas

Thursday

8:30 AM Introduction—Texas Fruit History & Challenges

9:00 AM Peaches-General Horticulture

9:20 AM Peaches-Varieties

9:45 AM Break

10:05 AM Peaches-Insects & Diseases

10:30 AM Peaches-Training & Pruning

11:00 AM Strawberries—General Horticulture

11:25 AM Strawberries—Insects & Diseases

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Blackberries-General Horticulture

1:20 PM Blackberries-Varieties

1:50 PM Blackberries-Training & Pruning

2:10 PM Break

2:30 PM Blackberries- Insects & Diseases

3:00 PM Blueberries

3:30 PM Persimmons—General Horticulture & Varieties

3:50 PM Fruit Propagation 1

4:30 PM Fruit Propagation 2

5:00 PM Adjourn

6:00 PM Dinner (location to be announced)

Friday

8:30 AM Grapes—General Horticulture & training, arbors

9:00 AM Grapes—Varieties & rootstocks

9:30 AM Grapes—Insects & Diseases

10:00 AM Break

10:20 AM Pecans—General Horticulture & varieties

10:45 AM Pecans—Insects & Diseases

11:30 AM Pomegranates—General Horticulture & Varieties

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Pome Fruits (pears, apples) General Horticulture & Varieties

1:30 PM Pome Fruits—Training & Pruning

2:00 PM Break

2:30 PM Figs

3:00 PM Olives—General Horticulture & Varieties

3:30 PM Citrus—General Horticulture

3:55 PM Citrus—Varieties

4:30 PM Citrus—Pests and Freeze Protection

5:00 PM Adjourn

APPLICATION

Advanced Home Fruit Training-Southern Texas
Course will be held @ 623 N. Fair Street in Gonzales
Program Dates: February 7th and 8th, 2019

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Master Gardener Association: _____

County: _____

Extension Agent Approval: _____

Additional Dinner Tickets requested (\$15 each) _____

Course Fee: \$185 Course fee must be paid at time of application to reserve your space. **Checks should be made to: Gonzales Master Gardeners.**

Master Gardeners should make their own hotel reservations by contacting the accommodation of their choice. If you have special needs that we should be aware of, please describe below:

Send your application and course fee to:

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Gonzales County Office
1709 E Sarah DeWitt
Gonzales, Texas 78629
(830) 672-8531**

For additional information, call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Gonzales County Office or
Master Gardener Gail Johnson (830) 491-1996