



MG Grapevine

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NOTICE

**August 6th
MG Association
Meeting at the Rose
Garden Center**

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Monthly meeting notes

Had enough heat and drought? If your garden looks like mine, its time to give up and think about a fall crop. Our August program will help you do just that. Moon Swanson, 7th generation Texas farmer, and owner of the Diamond B Ranch in Neches, will speak to us about raised bed organic vegetable gardening. Moon grew up in the Jacksonville area but left East Texas for several years to be a produce manager for a natural food co-op in Durango, Colorado.

He has recently moved back to Texas and started the East Texas Fresh Farmers' Market in Tyler.



He also has a retail business making raised bed forms of Red Cedar. Come join us and learn his secrets to successful organic gardening just in time for fall planting.

After Meeting Garden Tour

After the August meeting we will tour the shade garden of Dr David Burrow's Copeland Creek Dental Office at 5804 Copeland Rd. As an avid gardener Dr. Burrow designed and planted this garden himself. By using mature trees and plants it has the look of a garden of any fine home. In reality it is a office garden only ten months old!!

As you may remember, Dr Burrow's Whitehouse home was on our Home Tour a couple of years ago.

The directions to Copeland Creek Dental Office is: South on Broadway, Left on Rieck Rd., Right on Copeland Rd, Copeland Creek Dental Office will be on the left.

This young garden is well worth a visit.

WHAT'S WRONG: NOTHING'S GROWING!

By Dee Bishop

Many gardener friends have commented that their Impatiens, begonias, coleus etc. are just standing there.

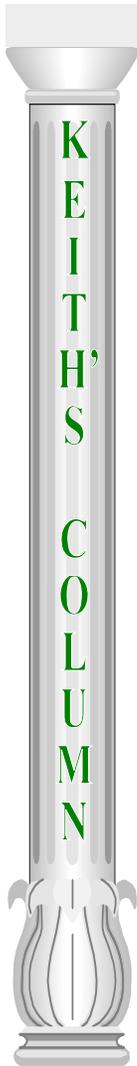
Well mine are too, and I am pretty sure why. We had a long cold spring with lots of cloudy days when we planted. The plants didn't get started growing-in good before we started having triple digit heat and no rain.

I ask you, would you grow if you were a plant? I sure wouldn't. Notice the burned edges? That's from using chlorinated water to water them. If you can somehow keep them living until the weather cools down, they will take off, of course then it will be time to plant fall-winter things. Sometimes weather reaks havock and there is simply nothing we can do.

I went out early one morning last week and decided to take some cuttings of things I wanted to keep, but no longer wanted to agonize over (keeping them alive). I have them in water since it is too hot to start anything in soil outdoors. Hopefully the spell of cooler weather we are having right now will last awhile and that we won't warm back up, but be realistic, August isn't here yet!

I lost some of my prized hydrangeas, nearly overnight, when I wasn't here to direct water to them. Sprinkling just didn't work. I hated losing them, but have decided that I need less water hogs and more drought tolerant things.

Weather isn't something we can control so we have to tune ourselves to playing along with it. The previous three years were pretty normal and we got complacent and forgot that Texas weather can be down right hateful
See What's Wrong - page 2



As I write this, the weather prognosticating folks are promising a break in the hot dry weather pattern we have been under for the past several months (punctuated with some storms and briefly cooler weather). Maybe even going from very dry to very wet? We'll see. We're getting the usual influx of calls and visitors with sick and dying plants, variably caused by stress (too hot, too dry, too wet from daily watering, etc.), insects and/or disease. Never jump to a conclusion when trying to diagnose a problem for yourself or your neighbor. Try to gather as many facts as you can, ask good questions, get a history of the problem and the yard maintenance, get a hands-on sample to look at, and use Extension and other non-biased references to try to figure out the cause of problems.

Tree problems are almost always frustrating because they rarely are easily diagnosed, and often no treatment can be offered except to try to minimize stress. I had an exception yesterday when an emailer attached photos from branches of an oak tree that had broken out of the tree during the last storm. The tell-tale gnawing of squirrels was very evident in the digital photos. Sometimes a photo really helps in solving problems. Now, he is asking, what can he do about the squirrels???

My mole trapping success has been very sporadic this year, with a catch last week. A tiny mound near the house today prompted me to dig to find the run and set a harpoon trap. When I got down to the run, about 5 or 6 inches deep, I thought, "That is a really big run!" I set the trap, and within a half-hour it was sprung. Guess what was on the business end – a gopher! I had no idea I had gophers in our yard, but I shouldn't be surprised. I think they and the moles must be using the same runs. Time to get a Macabee gopher trap.



With August brings Master Gardener preparation work for upcoming programs. *1st Tuesday in the Garden* starts up in September. I hope many of you would come out to learn and to support your fellow Master Gardeners who volunteer to provide this free educational information. Certified MG's also will earn an hour by attending.

All of you should have seen the request for help for our AgriWorld exhibit at the East Texas State Fair, called *Our Secret Garden*. I hope many of you will respond to the call, and help out in one way or another. This is a big project, and many hands helping make light work, and a more enjoyable time for all. We are planning some improvements, including making it rain on the playhouse for rainwater harvesting,

displaying live worms, having real vegetable plants for kids to discover, and other things.

And in October, the Fall Gardening Conference and Bulb Sale is coming up, and no doubt there will be much to do in preparation for this event. Be watching for requests for help, and come forward to volunteer.

Speaker's Bureau

During June there two presentations by Master Gardeners. Harvey Collen spoke to 25 people about vegetable gardening at the Farm & Ranch Club. Joan Thorpe spoke at Legacy Hospice to 20 people about summer and container gardening.

If you made a presentation please remember to send Harvey Collen the information, (e-mail HJCollen@aol.com) advising the topic, the group and the number in attendance.

Greenhouse for Sale

At long last, Sue Clark and her husband have sold their home. They have not found another home to buy, so they will be renting while they continue the search. They will be storing many things, but they can't store the greenhouse. If you are interested in buying it, call Sue Clark at 903-534-8794.

Are You Up-to-date?

When was the last time you filed a Volunteer Hours Report? **For some of you it was December 2008!**

We are currently completing the 7th month of 2009 and a surprising number of Master Gardeners have yet to file a report during 2009.

Monthly reports are requested and certainly desirable. It is much easier to keep track of the data if done monthly and it certainly is easier to record on the spreadsheet. Send your reports to Martin Davis at mred2853@sbcglobal.net

As usual, for those who report monthly, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

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almost vengeful. I will probably be hunting a new husband (because of high water and air conditioning bills), establishing a new yard, and my kids will probably be bailing me out of the poorhouse by fall: all because of the weather! I know I have

acquired tons of brown spots and dozens of wrinkles, bleached hair, and a fried brain, all from trying to keep my precious plants watered!

That's okay, I will start all over this fall and plant cacti and rocks. Then we will get winter, spring, and summer floods. You can't win for losing; so just simmer down, keep cool, and enjoy gardening no matter what.!!!...

Crape Myrtles: the most Brilliant Flowers of Summer

By Herb Coursey

The botanical name for this plant is *Lagerstroemia indica*. (The following quotation is from Google http://www.floridata.com/ref/L/lager_i.cfm). "The common name of this plant is *crape* myrtle not *crepe* myrtle. It is called this because the flowers have crinkly petals that resemble the material called *crepe* (which according to Webster is a 'light crinkled fabric woven of any of various fibers') but many references tell us that you're supposed to spell it crape when it's in front of *myrtle*. Confused? I think somebody was full of crape when they came up with this name! (sic.: this is a Google quotation!) At any rate, it's a *common* name and since there's no authority that manages common names for plants you can spell (or call it) whatever you like!"

Ta Ta! – 'erb



Here are other quotes from Google articles:

'The deciduous crape myrtle is among the longest blooming trees in existence - from 60 - 120 days per year.'

'Crapes come in heights as short as 18 inches and as tall as 40 feet!'

'Growth may be either upright, spreading or combinations.'

'Many types have interesting bark that exfoliates to expose lovely cinnamon or gray inner bark.'

'The U.S. National Arboretum has created hybrids known as the Indian Tribe group. These are noted for mildew resistance plus improved hardiness, and most are named for native American tribes,' including:

ACOMA, white, 5-10' tall, weeping, fall color = purple-red;

APALACHEE, pale lavender, 10-20', urn-shape, fall = russet;

ARAPAHO, bright red, 15-25', blooms spring to fall, very disease resistant;

BILOXI, pale pink, huge upright tree, fast growth, hardy, heavy bloomer, exfoliating bark, great street tree;

CAROLINA BEAUTY, deep pink, 25'+, hardy, dark foliage, fall = orange;

CATAWBA, violet-purple, 10-15', globose, prolific bloomer, fall = orange;

CENTENNIAL, bright purple, 3-5', compact dwarf, fall = orange;

CHEROKEE, shrubby with loose open form, red flowers;

CHICKASAW, pink-lavender, 1-2', great for pots, fall = bronze-red.;

CHOCTAW, bright pink, 20'+, moderate bloomer, open growth, fall = maroon;

COMMANCHE, coral pink, 10-20', broad growth, tan exfoliate, fall = red;

DYNAMITE, deep cherry red, 20-30', large upright, vigorous; thick leathery foliage; "A care-free tree!";

HOPE, white, 3-5', dwarf bush, florets blush to pink with age, fall = yellow;

HOPI, medium pink, 5-10', compact bush, early bloomer, huge florets, fall = orange-red;

LIPAN, medium lavender, 10-20' & broad, good bloomer, white exfoliating bark, fall leaves = orange;

MIAMI, dark pink, 20'+ & broad, very fast grower, later-blooming, exfoliating, excellent fall leaf color = orange;

MUSKOGEE, light lavender, 20'+ & broad, grows fast, blooms 120 days, excellent exfoliating bark, great street tree, fall leaves = red-orange;

NATCHEZ, white huge panicles of bloom, 20'+ & broad, largest grower, best exfoliating bark when the lichen-covered gray bark alluringly peels away in winter to reveal tantalizing glimpses of cinnamon-colored virgin bark;

NIAGRA, deep rosy-purple, 12-15' & broad;

OSAGE, clear pink, 10-20', huge bush, very hardy, graceful

growth, exfoliating bark, fall leaves = red;

PECOS, medium pink, 5-10', smallish bush, dark foliage, exfoliating bark, fall = maroon;

PINK VELOUR, bright pink, 8-10', easy to grow, drought tolerant;

POKOMOKE, dark pink, 1-2', compact dwarf mound, fine potted plant, blooms mid-late July, fall = bronze-red;

RASPBERRY SUNDAE, red to pink w/white, 10-20', upright bush, leathery leaves, crimson flower buds, flowers mid-summer thru fall;

RED ROCKET, bright-deep-firey-red, 20'+: **you gotta gasp when you see it!**

ROYAL VELVET, bright, deep pink; 20-30', growth columnar.

POTOMAC, pink;

SEMINOLE, medium pink, 10-15' compact globose, fall = yellow;

SIOUX, bright pink, 10-20', bushy, dark handsome foliage, copper-colored exfoliating bark, huge panicles, fall leaves = maroon;

TONTO, very dark pink-red, big blooms, 8-15', disease resistant, fall = yellow;

TUSCARORA, watermelon red, 20'+, vase shaped, fast grower, good heavy bloom, nice exfoliating bark, a great street tree, fall = red-orange;

TUSKEGEE, dark pink, 10-20' & broad, blooms better as plant matures, good exfoliating bark, fall = red-orange;

VELMA'S DELIGHT, dark purple, 5-10';

VICTOR, dark red, 3-5', dwarf bushy, very hardy, excellent for small area, very hardy, abundant flowers, fall = yellow;

ZUNI, lavender, 8-12', upright bush, rich flower color, dark foliage, white exfoliating bark, fall = red-orange.

CULTURAL POINTERS: Plant in **good drainage**, full sun, adjacent to **evergreens**.

WATERING: **Frequently** in spring, **moderately** in summer, **reduce** in winter.

FEEDING: Lightly every 2 wks in **spring through autumn**, alternate a general purpose plant food with a low-nitrogen tomato fertilizer

PRUNING: Generally only crossed-growth branches. Some folks remove old bloom pods to increase flowering through the summer. **Hmmmm...**

PROBLEMS: **Maneb** for powdery mildew; **Insect Killing Soap** for aphids. Enjoy!

Texas Superstars at Lowe's



Beginning last June, plants designated as Texas Superstars and sold at Lowe's stores throughout the state generate a royalty contribution toward the Texas Superstar program, according to Dr. James R. Fajt, licensing manager for the Texas

A&M System's Office of Technology Commercialization.

"This arrangement with Lowe's will help us continue to develop superior plants, educational information and products for the people of Texas," Fajt said.

"Texas Superstars will now, for the first time, be available throughout the entire state through the 139 Lowe's Texas stores," said Dr. Doug Welsh, AgriLife Extension horticultural science associate department head.

A list of Texas Superstar plants, including growth descriptions and photos, can be viewed at <http://texassuperstar.com>.

Landscape Design Study Course III, Series XXI

Dr. William Welch of Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Mr. Suzanne Milstead of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. announce the third session of the Landscape Design Study Course series.

The course will be offered on September 14 & 15 at Christ United Methodist Church, 4201 State Hwy. 6, College Station, TX 77845. You may contact Mrs. Milstead at 979-832-746-2875. Her address is: 1512 South Oaks Blvd., College Station, TX 77845, e-mail, suzlds@gmail.com.

Dr. Larry Stein of Texas AgriLife Extension Service will lecture on "*Fruit for Texas Gardens*." Dr. Neil Odenwald, retired Head of Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University, will speak on "*Color in the Landscape*" and "*Landscape Design Accessories*."

Registration materials may be downloaded at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDSept09/Flyer9,09.html>.

Registration for the course will cost \$100 (two lunches included) - make check payable to **Landscape Design**.

Certified Master Gardeners may apply 12 hours of credit to their requirement for continuing education.



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