



**SOMERVELL
COUNTY
MASTER
GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION**

**SCMGA
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SCMGA Newsletter

**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

THE GREEN PIECE

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Final CHES Program for 2012

Master Gardener Q & A Panel!

SCMGA Community Horticulture Education Program

Monday, November 12, 6:30 PM

Somervell County Citizen Center, 209 SW Barnard

Free and Open to the Public

Door Prizes Galore!

Don't miss this year's final Somervell County Master Gardener's Community Horticultural Education Session scheduled for Monday evening, November 12th at 6:30 p.m. Our last session for the year will feature an open informal question and answer exchange with the Somervell County certified Master Gardeners. Our group has a lot of combined knowledge, training and experience and we want to share that with our community.

The session will have no specific topic; the Master Gardeners will be ready to answer any question about any horticultural topic. If we cannot immediately answer a question, we will have resources on hand to find the answer as quickly as possible.

Feel free to bring photos, plant samples, bugs, anything that has you wondering what is happening in your garden and landscape. So come on out and try to "stump the Master Gardeners"!

Email us ahead of time if you want to make sure to get the most in depth answer! somervellmg@gmail.com.

Refreshments will be provided and this interesting and informative program is FREE. We will have many door prizes of plants and/or gardening trinkets!

We are beginning to plan our programs for next year, so bring us suggestions for topics you would like to see covered!



Got a Gardening Question?

We Have Answers!

October Gardening Tips

By Barbara Lancaster, Somervell County Master Gardener

The fall and winter in Texas are prime planting times, especially for trees. The fall can also be a spectacular time for fall color in trees, so consider fall color when planting trees. As Doug Welch discusses in his "Texas Garden Almanac", Texas is not known for its fall color, although some



Flameleaf Sumac

Texas trees provide dependable fall color. The amount of color versus dull brown depends on both tree species and on weather conditions.

Tree color will be more vibrant when the weather is mild and drawn out over a couple month. Cycles of cooler temperatures followed

by days of warmer temperature through September and October seem to increase the occurrence of good fall color. Texas Red Oaks in the Hill Country can rival the scarlet show of sugar maples when fall is long. Unfortunately, the type of fall weather that produces vibrant color only occurs every few years. Listed below are some trees with great fall colors.

Good Trees for Texas Fall Color

Bald cypress	Rust to burgundy
Cedar Elm	Yellow
Chinese pistache	Yellow to red
Chinquapin oak	Yellow
Dog wood	Red
Flameleaf sumac	red
Ginkgo	Yellow
Lacey oak	Yellow
Shumard Oak	Red
Sweet Gum	Yellow
Sycamore	Yellow
Texas Ash	Yellow
Texas red oak	Red to yellow

Favorite Plants Of Master Gardeners - "Carolina Buckthorn"

By Bonnah Boyd, Somervell County Master Gardener

COMMON NAME: Carolina Buckthorn, Indian cherry

LATIN NAME: Rhamnus caroliniana

USUAL HEIGHT: 12-15 feet, can reach 20 feet

FRUIT: Fall; red turning to black around October, 1/2 inch

DECIDUOUS to almost evergreen, with glossy leaves

SOIL: Sand, loam, clay, limestone; poor drainage okay, but it cannot take standing water for extended periods of time

DAPPLED SHADE, part shade, full sun. In dense shade, it will die because it needs three to four hours of sun a day.



Comments: I have planted two of these beautiful trees near the shade of a large post oak tree, south of my house. In the summer time, the glossy green leaves and red berries provide quite a show. As soon as the fruit ripens in the fall, it disappears within two or three days.

Life with Goat Babies!

Submitted by Donna Hagar, Somervell County Master Gardener

Yes, I am going to take the liberties once again to share what is happening at our little piece of heaven. As I've mentioned before, we have a menagerie of little critters. Goats, chickens, guineas, a donkey and a dog. For many Somervell County residents, this would be considered normal and quite blasé. But considering I was a city girl up until we moved here in 2005, I am still giddy about all aspects of country living.

Our recent acquisition pair of a Myotonic or fainting goats has now brought us a pair of 100% Myotonic doelings, as well as a Myotonic/Boer cross buckling and doeling. The cross kids are fairly typical for Boer kids, except their heads are black rather than the traditional reddish brown. But the Myotonic kids most definitely steal the show!! They are quite a bit smaller and have the cutest ears that stick out, rather than hang down like the Boers. Of course, our goats are more our pets than they are simple livestock, so they have all gotten immediate human imprinting. With this close interaction comes the greatest joy of being a trampoline to those bundles of energy!



Donna and Myotonic doelings

Wade's WallyWorm Word - "Goji"

Submitted by Wade Moore, Somervell County Master Gardener

Wade is visiting WallyWorm, who is packing his bags to head south for the winter. "You look mighty chipper, hale, and hearty this morning Double Dubya (ain't that a cute nickname?). Been working out?" inquires Wade

"Some; but mostly hanging out under the "GOJI" bush. As the dew drops fall from the berries onto my turf, I ingest the powerful tea that is my nectar of choice these days. It makes me feel like a new man, or a new woman, or both maybe. I can do that you know. "GOJI" is the way of the day: also of the path of the past." answers Wallyworm

"I have never heard of "GOJI". It sounds like a command to my old plow horse to giddyap and turn right (go-gee). Fill me in ol' buddy." pries Wade



"This is good stuff. Far East herbalists have used "GOJI" for 6000 years to protect the liver, help eyesight, to improve sexual function and fertility, strengthen the legs, boost immune function, improve circulation, and promote longevity.

"GOJI" berries are rich in antioxidants, particularly carotenoids such as beta-carotene and zeaxanthin. One of zeaxanthin's key roles is to protect the retina of the eye by absorbing blue light and

acting as an antioxidant. In fact, increased intake of foods containing zeaxanthin may decrease the risk of developing age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of vision loss and blindness in people over the age of 65.

The berries have a slightly sweet/sour taste. The berries may be eaten raw, eaten dried (like raisins), brewed into a tea, or added to foods and drinks. "GOJI" can be purchased as dried fruit, as a powder, and in capsule form. The "GOJI" plant is easy to grow, if fresh fruit is to your wanting. The leaves of the "GOJI" bush can be used in leafy salads.

There is some possibility of the "GOJI" berries interacting with anticoagulant drugs such as warfarin. Animal research supports the ability of "GOJI" to lower levels of fats in the blood, reduce blood-sugar levels and decrease insulin resistance." concludes Wallyworm

"I'll do some more digging for information on "GOJI" while you're away for the winter. This stuff sounds great. I just hope most of what you have told me is true" replies Wade

This info was "picked, dried, powdered, brewed, and extracted from; about.com and/or livestrong.com

Add Color to Your Winter Garden

By Merilyn Cranford, Somervell County Master Gardener

Summer is long gone, fall will soon be a memory, but winter is soon to be peeping its head around the corner. But winter doesn't have to be drab! It has flowers, colorful foliage, and nice landscaping ... all the elements of a great garden in any season.

Creating your own winter wonderland is all about choosing the best plants for flowers, color and texture, and combining them with other elements for a look you'll love. And one of the best things about winter gardens ... they almost take care of themselves! There are even perennials and bulbs that bloom in winter. These flowers tend to be on the subtler side, so think more is better.

Plant for a splash of color, one that draws the eye and can be seen from a distance. Suggestions might include Hellebore or perhaps Pan-



sies. Grouping them according to color is a great way to draw attention.

Another way to draw attention is to create a tapestry with evergreens. Evergreen foliage may be the single most important element in a winter garden. Even if it's too cold or snowy for flowers to show up, evergreens will still

shine. But evergreen doesn't mean just plain, old green. Look for colors such as burgundy, chartreuse, and blue-green.

Good design stands out in winter. To give your garden solid structure, include plants that show off in winter and invite in the birds. Since they don't drop their leaves, evergreens offer the best shelter for birds, and growing evergreens is one way to get colorful entertainment in your garden year-round.

Happy Gardening!

Introducing Our New Extension Agent: Shawn Davis



I grew up on a cattle ranch in North Texas in the town of Forestburg, Texas. At age 15, I moved to Stephenville, TX and went to high school. I graduated from Tarleton State University with a B.S. in Agribusiness.

During high school and college, I worked for the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Stephenville and specialized in work with water quality and forage crops. After graduating college I have been working for the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) for the past 18 years. During my career at TDA, I worked as a field inspector in San Angelo, TX, then was promoted to Chief Inspector of Pesticides over 83 counties in West Texas and then I spent the last 12 years

in Austin as a Statewide Pesticide Program Specialist in the state office in Austin, Texas.

I have a son named Cade and he is in the 4th grade here in Glen Rose.

You may contact Shawn at:

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We're on the web!

<http://www.somervellmastergardeners.org>

The Somervell County Master Gardeners are volunteers who work with the AgriLIFE Extension to improve gardening skills throughout the community. Program objectives are implemented through the training of local volunteers known as Master Gardeners. We collaborate with Extension to conduct youth and community education; establish and maintain demonstration gardens; and provide a speakers bureau. We work with special audiences in the community for youth and community outreach of a horticultural nature. We recruit and educate new Master Gardener candidates for effective volunteering.

The training for Somervell County is held in combination with Hood and Johnson Counties and is currently held only every other odd year. The next training for our area will be held in the spring of 2013. If you are interested in the SCMGA, we would like to invite and encourage you to visit one of our monthly meetings, so that you might learn more about our various projects and activities. Our regular monthly business meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Somervell County Extension Office. For more information, please contact Somervell County Extension Agent Shawn Davis at 254-897-2809 or email shawn.davis@ag.tamu.edu or you may email the SCMGA at somervellmg@gmail.com.



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