

VOL. 9 | SEPTEMBER 2020

OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



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From the Agent

Howdy!

As we reach the time of year where we are reminded to be thankful, today I am thankful for the small cold front we got it (I will take 90 over 100 any day). I am also extremely thankful for all of yall continuing to trust me to help find solutions to your problems.

We are slowly getting the go ahead to get back to programming, and I can give you the insider scope. As long as everything goes as planned, we will be having a Texas Hunter Education Class come this October. More details to come. I am just so excited to see yall again and spend time with you !

Stay Safe,

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent



HORTICULTURE *CORNER*

In the Garden

Add organic material into your new fall beds

Dig and divide fall blooming bulbs while in bloom

Mulch beds to prevent weeds and cold damage

Trim hedges and shrubs for the last time before
winter

Native Texans



I have noticed more and more people who are interested in creating an inviting habitat for wildlife. If that is your goal on your property, or you just are a friend of pollinators then Deer Pea Vetch is the plant for you.

This annual has climbing stems, purple to blue flowers, and fruits a flat seed pod loved by deer, cattle, and quail. The flowers from this are also known to be a favorite food source of the American Painted Lady butterfly . It blooms March to May so you can enjoy the butterflies longer!

What should I plant this month?

Plant Cool Season Leafy
Vegetables

Lettuce

Spinach

Broccoli

Cabbage

Kale

Collards

Dill

Cilantro

Parsley

GOOD read

Consider a Container Vegetable Garden this Fall

Whether you're looking to add a bit of beauty to your porch or making the most out of space in the backyard, gardeners can grow any vegetable in a container that they would normally grow in the ground. All you need is the right size container, good soil and proper drainage.

You can grow any vegetable in a container that you can grow in the ground as long as the container is large enough for that particular type of vegetable. While a 5-gallon container may work for a tomato plant, a 15-gallon container will result in less watering and a more productive plant.

Container Types

First, gardeners must choose the container most appropriate for their space and preferences. Options range according to size, colors, shapes and type.

Terra cotta containers are a great traditional type, but actually wick water through the clay, so you need to water them a little bit more. However, they do hold on to the soil a bit better and keep it from pulling away from the sides of the container like some of the plastic containers might do.

There are a wide variety plastic containers available, and these pots are lightweight, which makes them easier to move. If you are looking for a more rustic container, galvanized metal containers work well.

Glazed pottery provides a sturdy container and also comes in a variety of shapes and sizes. I like these for a salad container. You can grow a lot of different types of greens in it and as they grow, just mow them off with scissors for your salad, and they will come again and grow some more. You can also plant a variety of herbs in a container like this to have a beautiful herb garden for going out and snipping herbs off for cooking.

Ensure good drainage

Once the type of container is selected, be sure to check for drainage holes. Proper drainage is essential to the success of the plant. Without adequate drainage, roots will become waterlogged and are more likely to die from root rot diseases. If a container lacks drainage holes, drill a few in the bottom.

Correct soils and fertilizers

Inside the container, you want to use a good quality soil mix that provides opportunity for good drainage and nutrition for your vegetables. Use a potting soil mix or container mix that has peat moss, compost or coconut core, mixed with something like perlite to help loosen it up and help make sure the internal drainage works really well.

When it comes to fertilizer, use a slow release fertilizer that won't burn the roots. Soluble liquid fertilizers can provide plants a quick boost if needed, but slow release fertilizers provide a gradual release of nutrients over time.

If you start to see a white crust form at the top of your soil then you are fertilizing too much and you are getting a build up. Make sure your plant has good drainage and give it a really good shower for a few minutes, this will wash out a lot of the buildup and leave you a happy plant. Make sure to put it in a sunny area though to give the soil a chance to dry out quicker in order to avoid any root rot issues.

Choose plants wisely

Plants thrive and grow differently all across the state, and sometimes even year to year. Don't be discouraged if your first attempt doesn't produce the bounty you expected. Keep trying! I can help with suggestions of when and what to plant, but I also encourage you to pick up a copy of the Farmers Almanac too. Believe it or not they are almost always true to their forecasts.

If you would like a more in-depth look at crop selections, seedlings and transplants, soil media and containers, visit AgriLife Extension's vegetable gardening in containers. For more information, go to Aggie Horticulture online, where a variety of publications may be downloaded for free.

Upcoming Programs for *Nardin County*

All face-to-face programs have been canceled until further notice by the county or Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The entire agency has been working together in an effort to bring you CEUs and great online programs! I have included just a few that might be of interest to you, but there are so many more coming up on agrilifeextension.tamu.edu

There are also many different programs on agrilifelearn.org



TDA has allowed AgriLife to create a completely online Texas Private Pesticide Applicator Training. This training is \$75 on the AgriLife Learn Portal agrilifelearn.tamu.edu



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

GARDENING ON THE GULF COAST



Join our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture agents and specialists online as they discuss gardening in the Gulf Coast Region of Texas.

September 2020 Schedule

- September 2 - NO PROGRAM
- September 9 at 10:00am - Soil Amendments for Gardens & Raised Beds
 - by David Oates, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Jefferson County
- September 16 at 10:00am -Turf Maintenance
 - by Michael Potter, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Montgomery County
- September 23 at 10:00am - Herbs for the Coastal Garden
 - by Kevin Gibbs, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Nueces County
- September 30 at 10:00am - Citrus Varieties
 - by Stephen Brueggerhoff, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazoria County

Online via Microsoft Teams
[Register Here](#)

Registration Questions? Please email Lindsey Munyon at lindsey.munyon@ag.tamu.edu

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Speakers:

Robert "Skip" Richter

- Organic Practices that Work

Vikram Baliga

- Multi-purpose Landscape Design

Tim Hartmann

- Fruit Production for the Home Landscape

CONCHO VALLEY MASTER GARDENER'S 9TH ANNUAL
FALL LANDSCAPING
SYMPOSIUM

Saturday September 12, 2020

Visit txmg.org/conchovalley to register
Deadline 4pm Friday, September 11

FMI call 325-659-6528

Location: Join online

Time: 9am - 12pm

Cost: Free



For the most up to date
information and programming
efforts:

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Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the Hardin County Extension Office at (409) 246-5128 two working days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Get involved with Hardin County Extension

Please consider joining the Hardin County Agriculture Committee to provide leadership and suggestions for upcoming programming. You don't have to make a large time commitment, with as few as four meetings per year, but we would love to hear your ideas and for you to share input on your county!

Please contact the office to update your email address, or if you know someone that would like to be added to this list, at (409) 246-5128, or by email katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu. We also welcome suggestions for upcoming newsletters!

PO Box 610 | 1135 Redwood | Kountze, TX 77625

p: (409) 246-5128 | f: (409) 246-5201

<http://hardin.agrilife.org>

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