

**11475-A FM 1442  
Orange, TX 77630  
Phone: 409-882-7010  
Fax: 409-745-9889**

# Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Orange County Agriculture Newsletter

January-February-March 2017

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming Programs Please RSVP

**Jan 28** Keyhole Gardening/Gardening Basics at the Field of Plenty behind Orange Christian Services

**Feb 21** Pesticide Training and Update 3 CEU (IPM, Drift, Laws and Reg)

**Feb 23** Ag and Ranching Dinner 6pm; Please RSVP by Feb. 16, 2017

**March 2** Oranges in Orange County and Other Citrus 6pm

**March 16** Selecting Plants for Lawn and Garden 6pm @ Jewel Cormier Park

**March 18** Container Garden and Making your own Soil at Jewel Cormier Park – FREE!!!

**March 18** Master Gardener Plant Sale Jewel Cormier Park

**April 20** Succulent Gardens 6pm

## Meetings:

First Thursday's Apiary Committee at Extension Office 6pm (Feb & May)

Ag Committee: January 18, 6:00 pm, Extension Office

Lawn and Garden Committee Meeting, January 18, 11:30 am at Extension Office

Second Thursday Master Gardener at Extension Office 6pm

Third Thursday Master Naturalist at Extension Office 6:30pm



## Word from your Ag Agent

Howdy, Orange County! I want to take the time to thank you all for giving me a great first year with this Newsletter! We have reached over 4,500 people for 2016! Keep sharing and let's reach more in 2017! It has been very memorable, and I have enjoyed meeting many of you. One of my goals when I first started here in Orange County was to implement a newsletter that had a variety of useful information in agriculture that you could use.

In this past year, we have welcomed many new volunteers, implemented new programs, offered numerous CEUs, and overcame the floods! Our Newsletter keeps getting bigger and bigger each quarter, and the feedback you guys give me has been so great and welcomed! I have a great year of programs planned, and I hope you take apart of it!

Feel free to "Share" this newsletter with friends, family, and colleagues. If you are not receiving this newsletter directly then call us and we will put you on the email list! You should receive this newsletter quarterly that will contain a few months' worth of useful information.

So it is January 2017, and that gives us many new opportunities. As the New Year starts, so does reflection of last year's mistakes, and that gives us the chance to improve from last year. This month take time to reflect what could have been done to better the lawns, pastures, flower beds, and gardens. You will find that I have included a diverse selection of articles in here that will hopefully jump start some things we found got us last spring and early summer. This is the time to start planning and preparing for spring and summer gardens, lawns, pastures, etc. We have many new programs to address a variety of topics this year. Happy New Year and Good Luck!

- Have a question? Need a Soil sample? Call for a site visit from your Ag Agent!
- Need a plant, weed or bug identified? Email picture to [Extension@co.orange.tx.us](mailto:Extension@co.orange.tx.us) or [Ashlee.krebs@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ashlee.krebs@ag.tamu.edu)
- Want to be receive the Ag Natural Resources Newsletter? Contact us to be put on the email list for FREE!!!

# 2016 in Review

**2016 Orange County Agriculture and Natural Resources Education:** Environmental Stewardship, Texas Master Naturalist, Master Gardener's, pesticide training's and CEU opportunities. To provide educational resources and opportunities for the people of Orange County. The areas we hope to impact through gardening with a community garden outreach, use of Master Gardeners and their programs, various AgriLife outreach programs, and Master Naturalist. 332 people were reached and 977 hours were inputted. Two Pesticide Trainings were offered with CEU opportunities throughout the year. Texas Master Naturalist Sabine – Neches Chapter contributed many great conservation programs through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Sea Rim Beach Cleanup, and the National Big Thicket Preserve, as well as a new candidate training. The Texas Master Naturalist Sabine – Neches Chapter consisted of 26 volunteers with 1,532 volunteer hours.

**2016 Orange County Horticulture Education:** The Orange County Master Gardener Program is a volunteer development program administered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and is designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and leadership to improve the quality of life through gardening and horticultural projects. Program objectives are implemented through the training and "employing" local volunteers, known as Master Gardeners. They aid Extension by conducting school garden projects; answering telephone requests for horticultural information; providing speaker's bureaus, establishing and maintaining demonstration gardens; working with special audiences in the community; and designing and implementing community improvement projects, as well as coordinating Master Gardener projects. We had 17 new candidates that completed training, as well as, the ground work for a Master Gardener Specialist Training, and the Master Gardener Hotline has grown 50%. 175 direct contacts with 352 hours. Orange County Master Gardener Association contributed 2,905 volunteer hours, and impacted 1,821 people.

**2016 Orange County Beekeeping Education:** Teaching the Community, Producers, and Residents in Orange County how to be beekeepers, as well as, the benefits of bees in the community. Teaching them how to take care of bees, harvest honey, market honey, and other bee products. 100% gain valuable knowledge, and 80% plan on implemented knowledge learned. 121 Contact and 249 hours of education were made for this year. By having a 10 month beekeeping course that the individuals will learn a in depth series of workshops along with hands on demonstration of beekeeping with the extension owned apiary in the pollination garden. In addition, to the 10 month course, a short course of 3 workshops open to the public every quarter will be used to reach other audiences.

**2016 Orange County Beef and Forage Education:** Livestock and forage enterprises are affected by climate status as well as market variability. Many land and homeowners in Orange County have identified the need of wanting to know what they can do with their land, and more specifically the smaller cattle herds in Orange County. The issue is the clientele needing the resources and knowledge to be able to implement such adventures in Orange County. 160 Contacts were made with 592 hours dedicated to this plan alone. As well as, the Agriculture Quarterly Newsletter that reached 4,434 People! Through these program efforts many lives were impacted from the new landowner to the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation rancher. From weed and pasture control, understanding agriculture taxes, and other markets that are untapped in the county in an effort to strengthen the agriculture industry of Orange County. 100% increased or gained knowledge and 80% for adopt the new ideas and ways to better their endeavors.

# Texas Master Naturalist

T E X A S



## SABINE NECHES CHAPTER

# MONTHLY MEETINGS

### January 19

Meeting Place: Orange County AgriLife Offices DuPont Room 6:30PM-8:30PM

AT: VMS Refresher Training by D'Ann White

Chapter Business Meeting: Planning session for 2017 events and activities

### February 16

Meeting Place: Orange County AgriLife Offices DuPont Room 6:30PM-8:30PM

AT: Audubon Texas Estuarine Resource Network By Keri Howard

Chapter Business meeting

### March 16

Meeting Place: Orange County AgriLife Offices DuPont Room 6:30PM-8:30PM

AT: Turtle Island Restoration Project By Joanie Steinhaus

Chapter Business Meeting

### April 20

Meeting Place: Big Thicket Preserve Visitors Center 6:30PM-8:30PM

AT: Mammology (Bears) and Change Management By Mary Kay Manning (Initial Training for In Training Members)

Chapter Business Meeting

# Farming and Ranching

## Pond Management

Many ponds are being taken over by several aquatic weeds. However, the type of aquatic vegetation you may have, and your goals for your pond depend on what you would apply to control. Dragging ponds to rid it of the weeds may seem great at first, but many times you actually cause the weeds to multiple tenfold by doing so. Grass carp on some varieties can be effective in control of pond weed management. Most weed control in ponds can be more cost effective by spot treatment around docks, and swimming areas versus the entire pond. A Diquat plus Chelated Copper has been extremely effective in weed management of ponds. However, correctly identifying the aquatic vegetation you have and following the label is the first step in controlling pond weeds. Pond management just like pastures requires routine maintenance year round. I have attached the annual calendar below:

EWF-003  
Revised May 2013



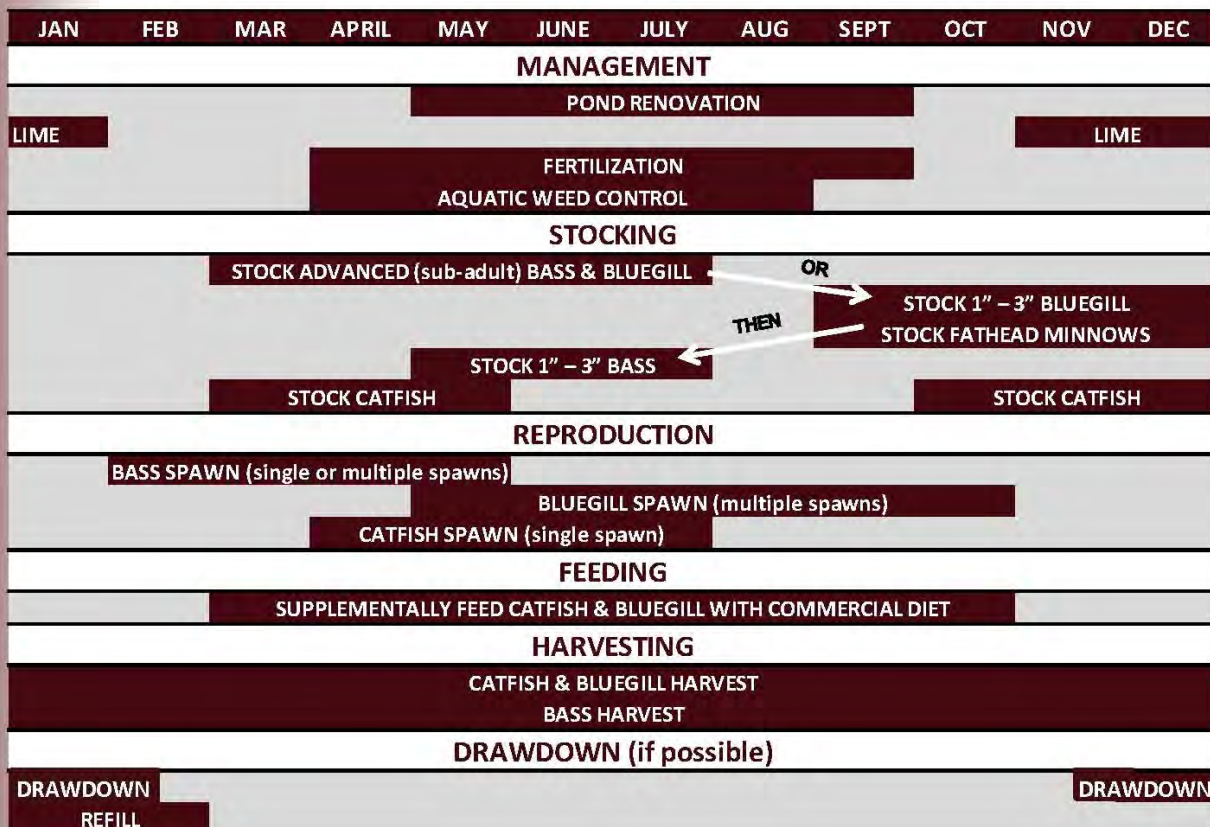
## TEXAS FARM POND MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

Billy J. Higginbotham

Professor & Extension Wildlife & Fisheries  
Specialist

Todd D. Sink

Assistant Professor & Extension Fisheries  
Specialist





# Pasture Management



**February 27, 2017**

**9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Hardin County Extension Office

440 W Monroe|Kountze|TX|77625

**RSVP to 409-246-5128 no later than February 23, 2017**

Cost: \$25.00 Lunch will be provided

**3 CEU's Provided**

9:00 a.m.–Rob Brooks, Dow Agro Sciences

Weed Control Techniques

10:15 a.m.–Dr. Barron Rector, Extension Range Specialist

Weed Management and Understanding of Drift Control

11:30–Dr. Don Renchie, Extension Program Leader

Laws and Regulations



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The Texas A&M University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

# Farming and Ranching

## Pasture Management

Proper Pasture Management is not something new, but often something we push to the back burner. I am often called or emailed, especially come summer, for advice on what to do about the weeds growing in the pastures. Many times the reason behind pastures being taken over with weeds, lack of grass, or in general is because of the lack of preparation for our warm season grasses. Of course, the amount of rainfall we had this past year didn't help our efforts when applying fertilizers or seed.

By the first part of February a soil sample test needs to be done on the fields that you are intending to use. Next, once the results have come back you should apply the fertilizer recommendations. In addition to fertilizer, dragging the fields to spread the manure will also help put nitrogen and organic matter back into the ground. This is a practice that can happen year round. I also, will add that a pre-emergent pesticide could also be added especially if there was an issue last year.

Planting seed, if need be, should be done by Mid-March at the latest. Of course, all this is at the mercy of the Mother Nature. Following this with rotational grazing will ensure the stock will continue to have grass through the warm season. This practice also helps control parasites as well. Over-stocking/over-grazing is another big problem I tend to see. Now, there is not a number of head per acre that I could confidentially give out due to the amount of variables that fall in place here in Orange County, but rather it is on an individual basis.

Furthermore, during the summer you may have to add some fertilizer again. Especially, for those of you who are in the hay production business. This of course can be determined by soil sample test. Many of you may know what your ground traditionally runs.

If you need any consultation of your farm or ranch please do not hesitate to call, email: [Ashlee.krebs@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ashlee.krebs@ag.tamu.edu), or stop by. A great resource for forages, pastures, and weeds is: <http://forages.tamu.edu/>



Texas A&M AgriLife Research photo

# Farming and Ranching

# Agriculture & Ranching Dinner

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office**

**6:00 PM**

**Call the extension office  
at 409-882-7010**

**If you have any questions.  
Please Register by Feb 16**

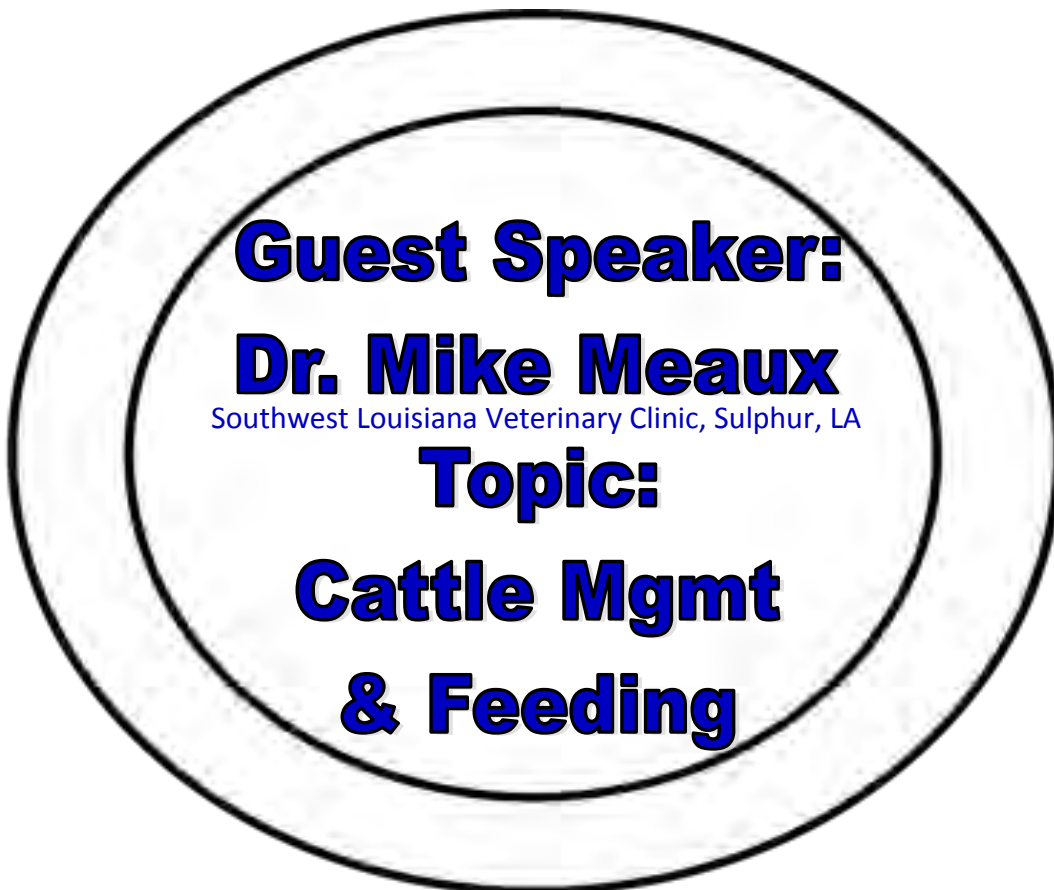
**To register:**

Go to [orange.agrilife.org](http://orange.agrilife.org) and click on the **Ag and Ranching Dinner Registration** tab

Or go to the link:

<http://orange.agrilife.org/ag-and-ranching-dinner-registration/>

**FREE!**



**Guest Speaker:**

**Dr. Mike Meaux**

Southwest Louisiana Veterinary Clinic, Sulphur, LA

**Topic:**

**Cattle Mgmt  
& Feeding**



# Master Gardener

## KEEPING YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ALIVE

(Adapted from <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/flowers/poinsettia.html>)

By Sheri Bethard Texas Certified Master Gardener)



1. Remove from the foil wrapper from your plant. Check your poinsettia daily. Water your plant when the soil feels dry to the touch BUT DO NOT DROWN IT. Let the water drain out the bottom and do not let it sit in water. Keep it out of drafts, either hot or cold. Place the plant in good light inside the house. Diffused sunlight is best.

2. When the danger of frost has past, you can move your poinsettia outside. Cut the stems back to about 6 inches and repot in a good quality potting soil. Place it in an area where it will receive natural sunlight only. Do not place it where it can get any additional

light such as streetlights or yard lights. This will inhibit future flowering.

3. Apply a water-soluble fertilizer per directions starting when you cut the stems back and until mid-December, and then reduce applications to one-half the normal amount. Pinch off the tips of new growth each month to promote the plant to bush out. Stop pinching August 15 so the plant should bloom on time.
4. Starting October 1 until the colored bracts (around Thanksgiving) can be seen, your plant should not receive any light at night. Cover the plant at dusk (5PM) every evening with a lightproof bag and uncover about 8:00AM in the morning. A closet may be ideal to put in at night. They must have a dark period of 15 hours, which must not be interrupted by any light. Even a quick, short exposure to a dim light can prevent flowering. Poinsettias must be exposed to a short day (9 hours) lighting period to insure flowering for Christmas.
5. Plants should be kept where the temperature will remain between 65° F to 70° F when kept inside.
6. Poinsettias are tropical so if left or planted outside in the winter, they will freeze.
7. The sap of the poinsettia plant and leaf can cause eye and skin irritations to those who are sensitive. The plant is classified as "possibly toxic" and not "poisonous". If the leaves are eaten, they may cause some digestive problems to a sensitive person but to the average person, they would have to imbibe 500 - 700 leaves before they would have a serious problem.

Good luck and hope your Poinsettia re-blooms to see another Christmas.

*Sheri*



# Master Gardener

## Myrtle Murder

# DON'T DO THIS!!!



I know you see it done all over town, but **DON'T DO IT!!!!**

I am talking about trimming Crepe Myrtles all at the same level, leaving years of “nubs” that distract from the beauty of the tree. The tree sprouts at this level of pruning year after year leaving multiple “nubs” from repeated trimming.

This type of pruning is called **“Myrtle Murder”** or **“Crepe Rape”** which indicates that it is bad.

### **Myrtle Murder is bad for several reasons:**

1. Beautiful trees become ugly with unattractive “fists” where branches sprout.
2. It prevents the pretty mottled bark on maturing trunks.
3. Skinny branches sprout from the cut end that are too weak to hold up flowers.

### **When and how to trim correctly**

1. Late winter is the ideal time to prune.
2. Trim suckers coming up from the base.
3. All higher branches growing toward the center of the tree.
4. All crossing, rubbing and dead branches
5. Branches growing at awkward angles that detracts from the tree's beauty.
6. Always cut back to a larger branch of the trunk. Don't leave stubs.

Do this and you will have a beautiful Crepe Myrtle for years to come.

—Sandra Hoke

# Master Gardener

## Timely Tips: January

**Plant:** Dig and transplant native or established trees and shrubs now, while they're completely dormant. Finish planting chilled tulips, other bulbs very early in month. Bare-rooted fruit, pecan trees, berry vines, grapes. Check references such as the new *Neil Sperry's Lone Star Gardening* or your county's Texas AgriLife extension offices for a list of best varieties for your locale. Asparagus from 2-year-old roots. Flower, vegetable transplants indoors six to 12 weeks prior to spring planting dates outdoors. Pansies, pinks, cabbage and kale for winter color anywhere in Texas, and in South Texas, petunias, snapdragons and alyssum. Onions and snap peas late in month.



**Prune:** Evergreens as needed to reshape. Shade trees to correct problems. Never “top” any tree (including crape myrtles!) at any time. Cable large limbs of shade trees if they appear likely to crack under weight of ice, wind. Peaches and plums are pruned late in the month, your goal being to establish a vase-shaped scaffold branching system. Pears will need little regular pruning. Remove strongly vertical new growth (“water sprouts”) from apples. Remove at least 80 to 85 percent of vine growth from established grapes each winter.

**Fertilize:** Houseplants monthly using diluted complete-and-balanced, water-soluble plant food. Root-stimulator immediately after planting bare-rooted, balled-and-burlapped trees, shrubs. South Texas: high-nitrogen food to winter-flowering annuals. Asparagus beds with all-nitrogen granular material late January.

**On the Lookout:** Houseplants may be infested with scales, mealy bugs, spider mites, other insects. Apply “tender houseplant” sprays as needed to control. Scales and other tenacious pests can also be removed with cotton swabs dipped in rubbing alcohol. Apply horticultural oil spray to eliminate scale insects from fruit trees, pecans, shade trees, hollies, camellias, euonymus and photinias. Remove rose plants infested with rose rosette virus (roots and all). There is no chemical control for the disease.

**Odd Jobs:** Prepare garden soils early in month, to let them lie fallow until planting time. Work shredded tree leaves, compost, other organic matter into the soil weeks before you plant. Have soil tested now to determine its shortcomings. Rototill every couple of weeks to ensure proper mixing, kill grubs, weeds. Work with landscape architect to plan spring improvement projects before rush season. Take equipment in for repairs before you actually will need it. Have saws, shears sharpened.

*Posted by Neil Sperry*

THE ORANGE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT THEIR  
FOURTH ANNUAL



*Bloomin' Crazy*



*Plant Fair*

Hundreds of quality plants nursery and member  
grown including cold-hardy  
avocados, berries, fruit trees of  
many varieties including LSU  
& purple figs.



gold



Texas Superstars, perennials,  
annuals, houseplants,  
tropical, succulents, lilies,  
vegetables and herbs and  
many hard to find and unusual plants

***Plant Specialists and Master Gardeners will  
be available to answer your gardening  
questions and help with your selections.***

*Specialty booths will be available offering a  
variety of unique gardening items.*

*Special Classes of "Plant Selection" will be held 3-16-17 and  
"Making your own Soil" and "Container Gardening" will be held day of the sale,  
3-18 from 9AM - 11AM*

**SATURDAY**

**March 18, 2017**

**8AM - 1PM**

**Cormier Park**

**8235 FM 1442,**

**Orangefield**

**(Exit 869S off IH10)**

**Rain or Shine**

**Cash or Checks**



For more information check our website <http://txmg.org/orange>

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating



Texas A&M System



# Lawn & Garden

## Is Your Dirt Rich?

### The Value of Soil Sampling

By Ashlee Krebs, CEA-Ag, Natural Resources, Orange County

As spring approaches and we prepare for the crops to be planted, many new additions will arrive in our livestock herds and the hopes of a good yield grow; the question arises if you have done all that is needed for that harvest. While today's economy gets harder for farmers and their families feel the burden of finding ways to keep the green in their fields and their wallets. However, for some you may be concerned about what the drought will mean to your pastures, crops, and hay production. One method that is easily forgotten that can save you time and money is soil sampling. Some may have never sampled their land, while others do so religiously.

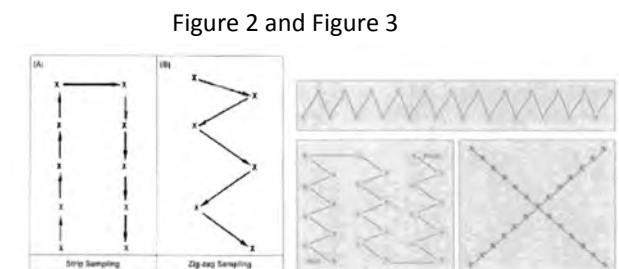
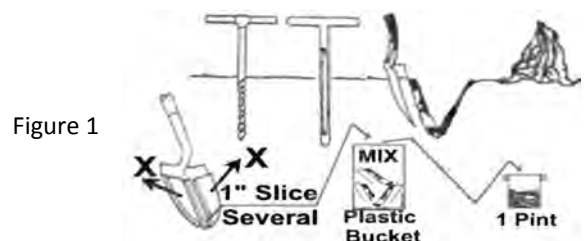
Soil sampling is one facet of agriculture that tends to go unnoticed by many today, even though it can be one factor that makes or breaks your endeavors. For such little effort and cost you get a great investment in return. The benefits of soil sampling besides being cost effective help agriculturalist be better at managing their land by knowing what is in their soil so that they can better farm their land. Soil is one of the most important aspects of agriculture, no matter if you are growing forages, row crops, or livestock. It all starts from the ground-up! Soil samples determine what is in the soil by taking many samples throughout your field, and it takes only a matter of days for the result to come back. There are many types of soil analysis that can be done, prices range from \$10 to \$74. The general soil test runs \$10, and this is a broad test that is used to develop a soil program. That's quite a small investment compared to what you can potentially gain from using the soil recommendations that are given in your soil analysis report. If you look at the cost of fertilizers, a \$10 insurance to know what exactly to apply can save you hundreds to thousands of dollars. By not doing a soil sample test means that they can be over or under applying, either way it is costing you!

Here is how you correctly do a soil sample. First, you need to pick up a soil sample bag from the County Extension Office. Then, you need to get the tool (trowel, spade, auger, or tube) to collect the sample. Whatever tool you use, it needs to be able to cut through the ground and slice 3 to 9 inches from the surface. Most ground that does not have limited rainfall, or top soil build up, can use the first 6 inches of the ground. You will send in 1 pint of

soil composite sample, but you need to collect at least 10-15 samples first. (see Figure 1). The more samples you get the better the report! The best way is to determine the field you are sampling from, and go in a pattern (zig zag, X, random, etc.) throughout your field. (See Figure 2 and Figure 3). To get the best results stay away from the fence, gates, or heavy traveled areas. Using a bucket to collect your samples first and then mixing the dirt is the best way to get a composite sample. Once you collect the core or slice of your soil you need to allow it to air dry. Then fill your sample bag with 1 pint of the soil you collected, and send it in!

In the soil sample results, it will give you a breakdown of what nutrients are in the soil, what nutrients are not, and how to correct the soil for optimal soil fertility. If the soil recommendation is followed, then an increase in soil productivity and crop yield are to be expected. These practices make the farmers better at managing their fertilizer programs, enhance their soil's fertility, and give them better harvest. Today, as you drive along the road of Orange County and see the many field it encompasses, take note of the fields that have healthy vital crops, which are due to a well developed soil program.

For more information on how to obtain your soil sample, come by the Orange County Extension Office, or visit <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu> for additional information.





To register for these classes:  
Go to [Orange.agrilife.org](http://orange.agrilife.org) and click on the Pesticide Registration Tab  
Or follow this link:  
<http://orange.agrilife.org/pesticide-registration/>

# Private Pesticide License Training

February 21, 2017

6:00 pm

Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension Office

11475 FM 1442

Orange, TX

409-882-7010

Dinner Provided



Private Applicator Training (PAT) is the required training for anyone pursuing a Private Applicator License to purchase and apply State-Limited-Use, Restricted Use, and/or Regulated Herbicides.

**Fee: \$60 registration if purchasing books (Strongly encourage to purchase books). We will need to know 1 week prior if you are purchasing books to allow for delivery.**

**\$10 registration if not purchasing books.**

Bring pencil/pen, note pad, calculator, and driver license.

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

## Need CEU's for your Pesticide License?

**3 CEU's offered including:  
Integrated Pest Management  
Drift Minimization  
Laws & Regs**

**February 21, 2017: 6:00 PM**

**\$10**

**Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension Office**

**11475 FM 1442**

**Orange, TX**

**Dinner Provided**



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

# Lawn & Garden



The mission of The Field of Plenty Garden is to bring the community together to grow, harvest, prepare, and give fresh fruits and vegetables to help alleviate food insecurity and to pass on the knowledge of gardening and food preparation for a healthy community, thus continuing God's love in action in Orange County

thefieldofplenty@gmail.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/fieldofplenty>  
409-886-0938



## January 2017

### The Field of Plenty

Donation Community Garden

Eating healthy does not have to be expensive. With a little get up and go and armed with some knowledge, you can grow quite a variety of delicious vegetables.

The Field of Plenty is offering four simple workshops on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, that teach how to have good garden soil (it's easier than you think), how to plant your veggies, how to save your seed for the next planting, and how to cook the foods you grow! We'll also demonstrate how to create a keyhole garden that has a small six foot diameter footprint and incorporates your compost directly into your garden.

The Field of Plenty's garden mission is not only about sharing fresh fruits and vegetables to help alleviate food insecurity in our local community. The Field of Plenty will be hosting gardening workshops quarterly to encourage all in our community to eat healthy and to learn how to supplement their grocery budget with fresh, homegrown vegetables.

The Field of Plenty has already supplied over 1300 pounds of produce to Orange Christian Services this year. In the world of food insecurity, a pound of produce is equivalent to providing one meal!

The Field has a dedicated group of volunteers who have made this all happen. Come join The Field of Plenty team. It's fun, rewarding, and you can grow in your gardening knowledge and skill while providing a worthy service. If you would like to help, contact us by phone, email, or Facebook.

The Field of Plenty at 2120 Wickard is located directly behind Orange Christian Services on West Park in Orange.

*The Field of Plenty Presents...*

## Eat Healthy and Grow a Vegetable Garden Class



Now is the time to think about gardening...for the next year! Join The Field of Plenty and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service with hands-on training at The Field of Plenty on Saturday, January 28, 2017.

In the morning, we will host three 45 minute workshops on how to select seeds to plant if you would like to save your own seeds, how to plant a vegetable garden, and how to prepare foods from the garden!

In the afternoon, we will demonstrate how to build a keyhole garden and go over the basics of composting.

Email: [thefieldofplenty@gmail.com](mailto:thefieldofplenty@gmail.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fieldofplenty>

### FREE WORKSHOPS

- Beginner's Seed Saving 9:00—9:45 a.m.
- Vegetable Garden Basics 10:00—10:45 a.m.
- Cooking what you Grow 11:00—11:45 a.m.
- Composting Basics 1:00—1:30 p.m.
- Keyhole Gardens 1:30—2:30 p.m.

You can attend one or all the classes. Please call the AgriLife office at 409-882-7010 to preregister so we'll know how many to expect. If you forget, come on anyway!

The Field of Plenty at 2120 Wickard is located directly behind Orange Christian Services on West Park Ave in Orange, Texas.



The Field of Plenty is a donation community garden dedicated to helping feed the hungry in our community.



# Lawn & Garden

## Tips for Aphid Control

Aphids: Common problem we will see in our area!

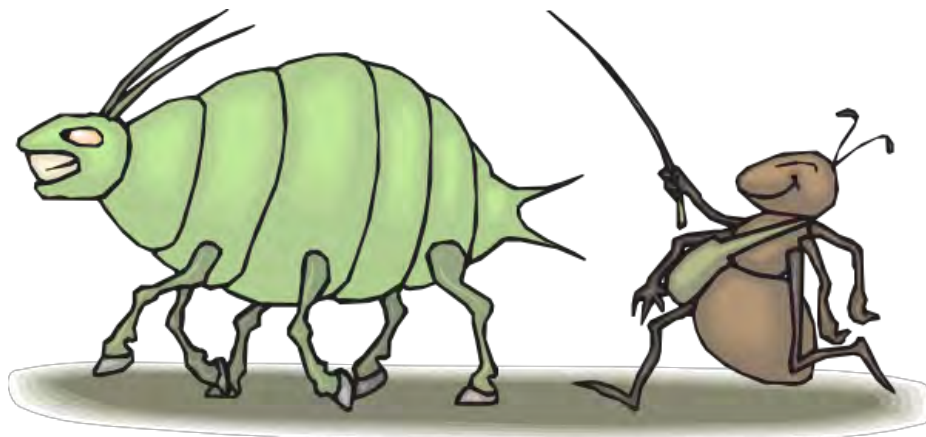


Apply 2.5 Table spoons of Dawn Dish soap per 1 gallon of water spray every other day for 1 month to plants or trees, as well as the ground beneath, reapply if rain occurs, then twice a week for a month, then once a week. This should break the life cycle, and help prevent recurring infestations.

Yellow plastic cups, turned upside down and stuck onto 16 inch tall, broomstick-sized sticks, using a thumb-tack. The sticks are pushed into the ground about a foot from the tomato plant. I coat the yellow plastic cup on the outside, with Tree Tanglefoot, a very sticky substance that doesn't wash off. The aphids are attracted to the color yellow, they fly onto the cups and the Tanglefoot catches them. (Don't substitute something else, Tree Tanglefoot is the only thing that doesn't wash off and keeps catching plants.



[Jimlongscolumns.blogspot.com](http://Jimlongscolumns.blogspot.com)



# Lawn & Garden

## Winter Garden Checklist by Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist Texas AgriLife Extension Service

January/February--

- Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs while they are dormant.
- Make flower and vegetable garden plans now before the rush of spring planting. Time spent in armchair gardening before the fireplace will pay off in improved plant selection. Besides, it is fun to page through the garden catalogs.
- Sow seeds in flats or containers to get a jump on plant growth before hot weather arrives. Petunias, begonias, and impatiens should be sown in early January. Warm temperature plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, marigolds, and periwinkles, should be sown in late January or early February.
- Continue to water and fertilize cool-weather annuals such as snapdragons, Bells of Ireland, Stocks, larkspur, pansies, violas and sweet alyssum to encourage the best blooms. Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs while they are dormant.
- Apply slow release fertilizer to pansies and other cool season annuals. Distribute 5 pounds of cottonseed or alfalfa meal per 100 square feet of bed area or use commercial slow release fertilizer products according to label instructions.
- Prepare beds and garden area for spring planting. Till in several inches of compost, composted pine bark or similar material.
- Select and order gladiolus corms for February/March planting. Plant at two-week intervals to prolong flowering period.
- Check junipers and other narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworm pouches. The insect eggs over winter in the pouch, and start the cycle again by emerging in the spring to begin feeding on the foliage. Hand removal and burning of the pouches reduce future damage.
- The life of poinsettias and other Holiday Season plants can be prolonged with proper care. Keep the soil moist, but provide drainage so that excess moisture can flow from the pot. Keep the plant out of range of heating ducts and away from heating units. Keep in a cool room at night, preferably at 60 to 65 degrees F.
- Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly the first year.
- When buying plants, the biggest is not always the best, especially when dealing with bare-root plants. The medium to small sizes (4 to 6 feet) are usually faster to become established and more effective in the landscape than the large sizes.
- Hold off on pruning bush roses until February or early March. Use good shears that will make clean cuts. Remove dead, dying, and weak canes. Leave 4 to 8 healthy canes, and remove approximately one-half of the top growth and height of the plant.
- Now is an excellent time to select and plant container-grown roses to fill in those bare spots in your rose garden.
- When pruning shrubs, first prune out any dead or damaged branches; then thin out by removing about one-third of the canes or stems at ground level, removing the oldest canes only; and last, shape the rest of the plant, keeping in mind the natural shape of the plant. Water foliage plants as well as other containerized plants only when needed and not by the calendar.
- Climbing roses should be trained but not pruned at this time. It is always appropriate to remove dead or weak canes. Weave long canes through openings in trellises or arbors and tie them with jute twine or plastic or other plant ties. Securing canes now prevents damage from winter/spring winds, and contributes toward a more refined look to the garden when roses are blooming. Wait until after the spring flowering period to prune climbing or once-blooming shrub roses.
- Now is the ideal time to select and plant grapes, fruit trees and berries. Contact your local Texas AgriLife Extension agent for localized variety recommendations. Prune peaches and grapes at this time.
- Herbaceous perennials and hardy ornamental grasses may be cut back at this time. It may be difficult to assess the extent of freeze damage on citrus and semi-tropical plants until warm weather arrives. When new growth begins damaged material can be removed.
- Complete the bare-root planting of woody landscape plants this month. Container and ball-and-bur-lapped plants are in good supply and can be set out most any time. Winter and early spring planting provides an opportunity for good establishment before hot weather comes.
- Prune roses during February except in the Panhandle and far North Texas, where roses are pruned in March or April. Use good shears that will make clean cuts. Remove dead, dying, and weak canes. Leave four to eight healthy canes and remove approximately one-half of the top growth along the height of the plant.
- Now is an excellent time to select and plant container-grown roses to fill in bare spots in your rose garden.
- Wait until after they finish flowering before pruning spring-flowering shrubs such as quince, azalea, forsythia and spiraea.

When pruning shrubs, follow these steps: (1) prune out any dead or damaged branches first; (2) thin out by removing



# Lawn & Garden

- about one-third of the canes or stems at ground level, removing the oldest canes only; (3) shape the rest of the plant but do not cut everything back to the same height.
- Plant dahlia tubers in late February and early March.
- Plant gladiolus corms; space planting dates at two-week intervals to extend flowering season.
- Fertilize pansies once again for continued flowering. Don't forget to water when needed.
- A potted plant, tree, shrub, or cut flowers make excellent Valentine gifts for loved ones and shut-ins.
- If you have ash trees in your landscape, keep an eye open for the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), an insect invader from China that has killed many thousands of ash trees in the eastern United States, and is approaching our region. The Texas Forest Service has recently begun a monitoring program in a number of counties that may become affected by the half-inch long beetles. If you discover any beetle you think may fit the description, please contact Joe Pase (East Texas) at 936-639-8170, [jpase@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jpase@tfs.tamu.edu) or James Houser (Central Texas) at 512-339-4589, [jhouser@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jhouser@tfs.tamu.edu).
- Water foliage plants as well as other containerized plants only when needed and not by the calendar.
- Prepare beds and individual holes for rose planting in January and February. Use composted manure, pine bark, and similar materials mixed with existing soil.

## March—

- For early color in the landscape, try some of the following annuals as transplants: ageratums, cockscombs, coreopsis, cosmos, cleomes, marigolds, nasturtiums, petunias, phlox, portulacas, salvias, sweet alyssums, sunflowers, and zinnias.
- Start hanging baskets of petunias and other annuals for another dimension in landscape color.
- Select and order caladium tubers as well as geranium and coleus plants for late April and early May planting. Do not plant caladiums until soil temperatures reach 70 degrees F.
- As camellia and azalea plants finish blooming, fertilize them with three pounds of azalea-camellia fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed area. Check mulch on azalea and camellia beds and add where needed.
- Beware of close-out sales on bare-root trees and shrubs. The chance of survival is rather low on bare-root plants this late in the season. Your best bet at this time of year is to depend on container-grown or balled-and-burlapped plants for landscape use.
- Fertilize roses every 4 to 6 weeks from now until September. The traditional heavy pruning practices are appropriate for Hybrid Teas, but most antique and shrub roses require less severe methods. Weak or dead canes should be removed or shortened to healthy tissue any time during the year.
- Often, tomato and pepper plants started outdoors from seed will grow so quickly they will catch up with commercial plants in size within a few weeks. For many gardeners, this is the only way to obtain rare or heirloom varieties. But because this has been a winter with erratic weather patterns, it's best to keep an eye on young tomato transplants so that they may be covered if the threat of a late frost occurs.
- Don't be in a hurry to set out young pepper plants. Wait until the temperatures seem to be settled.
- Pruning of evergreens and summer flowering trees and shrubs should be completed in early March. Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs as soon as they finish blooming.
- Plant dahlia tubers in fertile, well-drained soil.
- Prepare beds for planting warm-season flowers and vegetables. For every 100 square feet of bed area, work in a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic material such as compost, pine bark, or sphagnum peat moss. Add 4 to 5 pounds of balanced fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed area, and till or spade to a depth of 8 to 10 inches.
- Check mulch on azalea and camellia plantings, and add more where needed. Consider using pine needles, pine bark, or similar organic materials.
- Remember that many trees and shrubs are damaged or killed each year by the careless application of weed killers, including those found in mixes of fertilizers and weed killers. Always read and follow label directions very carefully. Weeds in a lawn usually indicate a poor lawn-management program, and can usually be crowded out in a healthy turf.
- Freeze-damaged beds of Asiatic jasmine ground cover should be sheared back just as new growth starts, to encourage new growth from the base. Divide existing clumps of fall-blooming perennials, such as chrysanthemums, autumn asters, Mexican marigold-mint, *physostegia* (obedient plant) and Mexican Bush-Sage (*Salvia leucantha*).
- Plan for and invest in some permanent bulb plantings this year. Bulk bulbs are less costly than the small packages from nurseries or box stores. Once planted, the lawn may be mowed as usual after the foliage of the bulbs is dried. *Scilla peruviana* is a choice bulb that brings hard-to-get blue shades into the garden.
- Prepare beds for planting flowers and vegetables. You may want to consider renting or buying a garden tiller to speed up the process; however, a strong back and a garden fork will still do an excellent job.
- Dig and divide summer and fall flowering perennials just before they initiate their spring growth.

# Lawn & Garden

## Virginia Buttonweed: No. 1 Weed Problem of Southern Lawns

[Ronald Strahan](#) | 7/26/2016 5:25:35 PM

Virginia buttonweed is widely considered the most invasive weed infesting turfgrass in the South. The plant is extremely prolific and has multiple ways to reproduce, including heavy seed production that occurs both above and below the ground from self-pollinating flowers, rooting stem fragments and tap roots that allow plants to survive through winter. Mowers set at even the lowest blade height do not interfere with growth or seed production of this plant.

Because of the potential for stem fragments to root, mowing may actually aid in the spread of buttonweed.

Turning the mower deck discharge toward landscape beds could even start populations of buttonweed in flower beds.



### Virginia buttonweed control



Virginia buttonweed is tolerant of most selective herbicides used for weed control in turf, especially when plants harden off in late summer. Managing the weed should start early in spring as perennial plants emerge from winter dormancy.

April and May are good months to begin spraying buttonweed in spot applications. Perennial plants that went dormant after the first frost will begin emerging in early April. Seedling plants germinate around the perennial “mother” plants as temperatures warm in spring. During this early growing season, perennial plants are tender with new growth. It

is at this time that the perennial plants are most susceptible to herbicide uptake. Additionally, herbicide applications during spring will easily kill germinating seedling plants and reduce the overall buttonweed population significantly.

The worst thing to do is to wait until late July or August to make the first herbicide application. By late summer, heavy Virginia buttonweed populations can form a dense mat that can kill large areas of the lawn. Single herbicide applications, especially late-season, have not been effective on mature Virginia buttonweed. Multiple applications throughout the summer are needed after the initial spring applications to get buttonweed under control.

A program approach works best to control buttonweed. According to research trials conducted by the LSU AgCenter, herbicides that contain the active ingredients 2,4-D, dicamba, mecoprop and carfentrazone (Speed Zone Southern, Weed Free Zone, Weed B Gon) have been effective in suppressing emerging perennial plants and killing the first flush of buttonweed seedlings when applied in early spring. Once temperatures exceed 85 degrees, herbicides containing 2,4-D cause too much injury to St. Augustinegrass

# Lawn & Garden

and centipedegrass.

In the hot summertime, metsulfuron (MSM, Mansion) or Celsius herbicides should be applied. Always repeat met-sulfuron or Celsius applications four to six weeks after the initial application. Both Celsius and metsulfuron have performed well in research trials, and these herbi-cides seem to be tolerated pretty well by St. Augustinegrass even in hot weather.

*Ron Strahan is a weed scientist and associate professor in the School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences*



## Virginia Buttonweed Control Program for Louisiana Lawns

Herbicide	Timing	Comments	Sources
Speed Zone Southern, Weed Free Zone, Weed B Gon (2,4-D + dicamba +, mecoprop + carfentrazone)	Apply in early spring as perennial plants break dormancy and seedling buttonweed emerges	Labeled for all Southern turfgrass. Expect injury on St. Augustinegrass and centipedegrass when temperatures exceed 85 degrees.	Turf chemical distributors, retail nurseries, big-box retail centers, online sources
MSM Turf, Mansion (metsulfuron)	Apply in summer when temperatures exceed 85 degrees.	Labeled for all Southern turfgrass. Kills bahiagrass.	Turf chemical distributors, retail nurseries, online sources
Celsius (iodosulfuron + thien carbazon + dicamba)	Apply in summer when temperatures exceed 85 degrees.	Safest herbicide to use in hot weather. Do not apply to bahiagrass or carpetgrass.	Turf chemical distributors and online sources



# Bee Keeping in Orange County

## Bee Keeping in Orange County

January 2017



EXCITING news for 2017, we now have an active Orange County Beekeepers Group here in the county. We meet the first Tuesday of each month, 6pm at LA Cantina Restaurant 2907 McArthur Drive. Please attend one of our meetings. Also join us on Facebook at "Orange County Texas Beekeepers Group", request acceptance to the group.

The local group is just a bunch of beekeepers who want to help each other and form relationships which enhance beekeeping efforts within the area. We work to keep each other informed and will attempt to have local speakers present ideas, suggestions and advise or inform of mistakes they may have made.

Now a little about our friends the Honeybee the ultimate pollinator, they pollinate one third of all our food crops. If you're getting the spring garden ready don't forget the most important part, the honeybee. Without our little friends there will be no cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, blueberries or apples to name just a few. Unless you are real good with moving pollen around with a Q-tip you need the honeybee. Think about finding a beekeeper and buying a hive or asking them to place a hive in your yard. They don't take much room and can be placed such that they won't bother anyone. Oh, by the way, leave that clover in the yard, mow around it.

If you already keep bees this is the time of year to prepare for the spring and summer. Do you need to build or buy suppers, brood boxes? Are you planning to split your hives or do you hope to catch a swarm or two? Make sure you have your equipment ready, inspect your veil, gloves and suit. Does your Apiary have room for more hive boxes?

If you need assistance or need to contact a local beekeeper you can call the County Agrilife Extension office at (409) 882-7010.

Also remember the TAMU Inspection Service maintains a web site with general information, educational opportunities and removal contacts. The web site address is [Tx.beeinspection.tamu.edu](http://Tx.beeinspection.tamu.edu)

If you would like a particular topic addressed in future updates please send a note to Ashlee Krebs, Orange County Agent.

**Len VanMarion**

**Local Beekeeper**



**\*\*Note that Lamar Orange Leisure Learning Dept. is offering Beekeeping classes (409) 883-5717 for info. Classes begin with registration in February. Limited class sizes so don't wait.**



# Upcoming Events:

**Jan 19: Texas Master Naturalist Meeting, 6:30 pm, Extension Office**

**Jan 28: Keyhole Gardening and Gardening Basics at the Field of Plenty behind Orange Christian Services**

**Feb 16: Texas Master Naturalist Meeting, 6:30 pm, Extension Office**

**Feb 21: Pesticide Training and Update 3 CEU (IPM, Drift, Laws and Reg) @ Extension Office**

**Feb 23: Ag and Ranching Dinner 6pm @ Extension Office**

**March 2: Oranges in Orange County and Other Citrus, 6pm @ Extension Office**

**March 16: Selecting Plants for Lawn and Garden, 6pm @ Jewel Cormier Park**

**March 16: Texas Master Naturalist Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Extension Office**

**March 18: Container Garden and Making your own Soil at Jewel Cormier Park – FREE!!!**

**March 18: Master Gardener Plant Sale @ Jewel Cormier Park**

**April 20: Texas Master Naturalist Meeting, 6:30 pm, Big Thicket Preserve Visitors Center**

**April 20: Succulent Gardens 6pm, Location TBD**

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