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Scan and go directly to
AgriLife website or click
link below
orange.agrilife.org

Orange County AgriLife Newsletter May 2022



Sunday, May 8th



Monday, May 22nd

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Orange County & Committee on Aging Invite our Senior Citizens to join us



Tuesday May 10, 2022 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Orange County Convention F







Expo Center





Wear Your Kentucky Derby Attire



Questions Contact Orange County AgriLife Extension 409-882-7010



Drange County Convention and Expo Center 11475 FM1442, Orange, TX

SPECIAL EVENT

Benefitting homeless veterans, their families the homeless

Services Include:

- .Clothing
- .Shelter/Housing Information
- Information for the Disabled
- Medical Screenings
- Mental Health Screenings
- ·Legal Services
- ·Haircuts
- ·Certification of Eligibility
- -VA Claims & Benefit Information

- Substance Abuse Treatment Info
- ·HIV/AIDS Information
- .SNAP (Food Stamps) Information
- -Help with DD214
- Services for Women Veterans
- ·Survival Benefits
- Duffle Bags (for those that qualify)
- •25+non-profits that provide services to homeless veterans & veterans

Friday, May 20th, 9am to 2pm

Need a form of ID (Picture ID - TX Driver's License/ID Card/Military ID/SS Card)
Military (or DoD) Surplus is reserved for homeless veterans: Proof of service is required: DD-214 or Veterans ID

Certified Food Managers 2-Day Course with Test Monday, May 23rd & Tuesday, May 24th 9 am to 4 pm AgriLife Extension Office

Must pre-register by obtaining registration form from http://foodsafety.tamu.edu

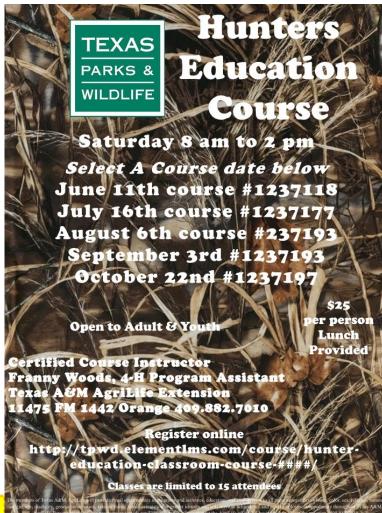
Complete form and submit with payment of \$125 check or

money order payable to:

AgriLife Extension Act#230202

Mail completed registration form with payment to:
Food Safety Education Program
2253 TAMU 118 Cater-Mattil
College Station, TX 77843-2253

Course instructor
Fallon Foster, M.P.H., C.E.A.
Family & Community Health
Question, contact the AgriLife Office
409-882-7010



Food Handlers Certification 2 hour course Wednesday, May 25th AgriLife Extension Office

\$20 per person payable at the beginning of class

Check or money order payable to *AgriLife Extension Act#230202*

Call the AgriLife Office to reserve your spot 409-882-7010





LIMITED TO
60 KIDS
4-H YOUTH NOT ELIGIBLE

FOOD CHALLENGE HELD THURSDAY

JUNE 13-17 10 AM TO 2 PM

ORANGE COUNTY
CONVENTION & EXPO CENTER
11475 FM 1442, ORANGE
409-882-7010

\$75 PER CHILD

PAYABLE BY CASH, CHECK TO H.O.P.E.,
OR PAYPAL TO

JSCALES® CO.ORANGE.TX.US

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE AGRILIFE OFFICE BY JUNE 3RD.

LIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE.
CALL TO INQUIRE.

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 2ND @ 10:00 AM-REGISTER ONLINE

TO REGISTER: GO TO ORANGE.AGRILIFE.ORG AND CLICK ON THE REGISTRATIONS LINK

TEXAS A&M GRILIFE EXTENSION

INTERESTED IN BEING AN ADULT VOLUNTEER FOR THE COOKING
CAMP? CALL THE AGRILIFE OFFICE @ 409-882-7010

The members of Texas A&M Agrille will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, nation origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M Agrille.

YOUTH CANNING CLASS

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2022
9 AM TO 3 PM
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
ORANGE COUNTY
409-882-7010
CLASS LIMITED TO FIRST 12 TO REGISTER



TO REGISTER GO TO:

ORANGE.AGRILIFE.ORG

CLICK ON THE

REGISTRATIONS LINK

\$25 PER PERSON WITH LUNCH INCLUDED

PAYMENT DEADLINE FRIDAY, JULY 1ST

REGISTRATION
OPENS ONLINE
JUNE 1ST

Don't wait till payment deadline to register, class may be full.



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment constitutions or the provided of the provided research and write for the provided research and provi



2022 over Kids

Day Camp Adventures Youth Ages 5-8

Tuesday, July 19th Wednesday, July 20th Thursday July 21st 1 pm to 4 pm

Orange County Convention & Expo Center 11475 FM 1442 Orange









REGISTRATION OPENS ONLINE JUNE 1ST

To Register: go to orange.agrilife.org and click on the Registrations link then select Clover Kids Camp

Registration fee due by June 30th

\$25

Checks payable to Orange 4-H Council per child

PayPal friends kpeveto@ag.tamu.edu



Questions, contact the



FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE:

Unmasking Your Potential



August 2, 2022 9 am - 3 pm **Orange County Convention** & Expo Center 11475 FM 1442 Orange, TX 409-882-7010



Speakers Continental Breakfast

Lunch **Door Prizes Vendors**

- Hand's On Activities
- Cow Milking Demo
- Roach Control
- Grilling Food Safety
- How to Pass Inspections
- Health Department Speakers

Food Handlers Course offered for \$20 from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Deadline to register July 29, 2022

To register go to: orange.agrilife.org and click on the Registrations link.







THE 7TH ANNUAL MICHAEL HOKE MEMORIAL **OUTDOOR AWARENESS FOR KIDS**

FREE!!

FUN!!

RAIN OR SHINE!!

FOOD!!

AGES 8-14 AUGUST 4, 2022 CLAIBORNE WEST PARK HALLIBURTON PAVILION 4105 NORTH ST, VIDOR, TX 🌋 9AM - 2PM

春春春春春春春春 **ACTIVITIES:** DUCK DOG DEMO

CAMP COOKING **SKULLS & FURS**

BENTHIC TESTING NATURE TRAIL

查查查查查查查查

CHECK-IN THE DAY OF EVENT: 8:30AM

TO REGISTER GO TO ORANGE.AGRILIFE.ORG AND CLICK ON THE REGISTRATIONS LINK

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 CALL 409-882-7010 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS



CLOSED TOE SHOES ONLY! NO SANDALS



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and a national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or a

Plant Selection: Create Stunning Visual Impact

by John Green, Certified Texas Master Gardner

Plant choice is one of many important steps in creating a new garden design or outdoor living area transformation. Choosing the right plants for your garden space depends on a several different factors, such as knowing the exact amount of space to fill with plants and understanding your garden's characteristics. Determining the soil type and deciding on the look you want to create. Naturally, there are numerous exciting elements to consider while determining your planting plan. Do you want to add colorful, blooming plants to brighten a patio or porch? Are vibrant and colorful plants needed to provide pops of color in a shady area? Would you like to hide or diminish the impact of an existing structure? Then consider the following steps an aide, to guide you, before making plant selections.

1. AREA MEASUREMENT

Plants require space to grow and thrive and without it they are not going to perform well. Be realistic with your garden plant ideas. Start by gathering a tape measure, ruler, sheet of paper and a pencil, to capture the measurement information. On the sheet of paper, roughly sketch the planting area dimension. Follow this by using a tape measure to determine the areas' length and width. Write the measurements on to corresponding areas of your sketch. Follow the same process for creating a container gardening plan by drawing a sketch of the area where you'd like to place containers within the measured area. This will allow you to see how containers fill-up the space. This first step is the most important step, and planting decisions can now be based upon actual measurements, without attempting to guess the amount of area. Once you understand the area available for planting, you will have a better idea of what can be achieved in your planting scheme using flower beds, shrubs, trees, and borders.



Bumble (Image courtesy CTV News)

2. SOIL TYPE

Okay, let's face it and talk about the elephant in the room! Southeast Texas does not have the greatest soil type, since most of us have clay soil but this doesn't have to be a limiting factor when planning a new planting area. Many plants like to grow in our soil which has a pH range between 5.5 and 7.0. For maximum nutrient availability, plants need to be grown in pH range of 6.0 to 7.0. Soil with a pH value 7.0 is neutral, below 7.0 is acidic and above 7.0 is alkaline. The best way to determine the type of soil and its pH is by way of soil analysis. Gather a few soil samples for analysis and provide them the nearest county extension office who will provide guidance on where to submit samples for analysis. The cost of soil analysis is minimal, usually less than \$20 with results arriving by email in about 7-10 days. The results include a detailed elemental and mineral analysis, soil structure and pH. Further, the analysis will provide soil amendment recommendation for the type. Just as important as pH are soil texture and structure since the level of nutrients and drainage is specific to all types of plants. There are six main soil types and while most of us have clay soil, the possibility of having small areas or pockets of these soil types interspersed with clay exists. The types of soil are:



- Clay: clumps together, has poor drainage but good nutrient content, good for many evergreen plants, many shrubs, and a few vegetables.
- Sandy: loose, does not hold together well when squeezed, dries out quickly and has minimal nutrient content.
- Silty: soft, easily compacted, easily improved using numerous types of organic matter.
- Peaty: spongy, dark in color, great for some vegetables, azaleas, and blueberries.
- ♦ Chalky: numerous rocks and pebbles, can be good for trees, shrubs, and many bulbs.
- ♦ **Loamy:** an amalgamation of all soil types, excellent structure and texture, has the ability to hold moisture, the best type of soil for gardening.

Hydrangea (Image courtesy aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu)

3. SHADE CHARATERISTICS

There are varying degrees of shade, such as partial or light-dappled shade beneath a weeping willow tree or heavy-dense shade, which would be provided by a large structure, house, or tree with a dense canopy (think Live Oak), with numerous levels of shade in between. Many of the best plants for shade will do well in light or partial shade and are more common garden plants than you might think, such as hydrangea, viburnum, and several rose varieties. Plants needed for dense, heavy, or full shade can be more challenging, and most will not have colorful blooms and often not as visually exciting. They should still be worked into your gardens design though; Hosta, bleeding heart, vinca, and ferns are a few plants to consider – they can provide a "green background" which will enhance

the visual appeal of vibrant, blooming plants by contrast. Plants can take longer to establish themselves in shady areas, since these areas will have minimal moisture if covered by large trees. Large trees consume lots of water and nutrients, so patience is needed while allowing shade loving plants to establish themselves.

4. SUN CHARACTERISTICS AND "HOT ZONES"

Just as important as knowing the type and amount of shade within your garden area, is knowing the number of hours direct sun received, including where the "hot zones" are located. Hot zones are planting areas which receive full sun from morning, throughout the entire day until evening, without any type of shade during the day (8 to 12 hours). If your garden benefits from full sun, plant choices are many. In Southeast Texas (Zone 9a), summers are long and often very hot, with temperatures well above 90°F for many months. Make certain your plant selections can take the heat, especially in hot zones. These areas will require plants which can endure the heat yet flourish despite it. Once established, drought tolerant plants like Lantana (Lantana urticiodes),



Vitex (Image courtesy aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu)

Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'), Purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), Salvia (Salvia greggii), Gulf-coast muhly grass (Muhlenbergia capillaris), Chaste tree (Vitex agnuscastus), Plumbago (plumbago auriculata), Firebush (Hamelia patens), Esperanza (Tecoma stans), to name a few, will thrive. As gardeners, we realize sun-loving plants far outnumber shade-loving plants and typically sun-

5. "UNIVITED GUESTS" -VS- FLORA AND FAUNA

loving plants have the brightest, most vivid, and colorful blooms.

Okay, I'm certain most gardeners know about snails and slugs which are annoying, uninvited guests. You will want to think about animals, wild or domesticated which are likely to dig up, lay on top of or chew plants, like rabbits, raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, dogs and cats, your own pets, or your neighbors! You don't want them making your garden a part of their stomping ground, so you want to ensure that you can both protect your plantings while keeping all other unwanted "guests" away. Know some plant varieties are poisonous to dogs and cats, such as oleander, sago palms, lily-of-the-valley, lilies, and tulips. While beautiful, you might want to edit these from your garden planting ideas. Encourage pollinators like birds, insects, bees, and butterflies, as they all are a gardens' best friend! By incorporating bird feeders, baths and nesting boxes, toad houses, or butterfly houses into your plan, it creates an inviting habitat for pollinators.



Blue Bonnets (Image courtesy of aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu)

6. PLANTING ENMASSE

For more colorful and visually dramatic impact, plant in groups of three or five or more. By planting odd-numbered multiples of plants, you create an island of color, guaranteed to draw smiles from neighbors and passers-by. Utilize plants of varying heights, bloom or foliage color, and texture to increase the aesthetic. Maximize mass plantings visual appeal with separation, creating borders and boundaries between plantings. Create a unique space by incorporating garden art that you find appealing made of metal, stone, or wood. Utilize large planters in vibrant, bold colors as statement pieces, add water features with basins to attract birds and bees. Include obelisks, or elevate uncommon elements, repurpose broken objects such as terra cotta planters. Don't be afraid to fill gaps in beds with plants, flowers, and objects – the most beautiful flower bed ideas, borders and pots are teaming with color and plants of multiple heights and varying structure.

This is the time to experiment and create the exact look you want, so have fun and enjoy the process of creating your new planting area!

Topiaries (Image courtesy of aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu)

7. SPECTACULAR AND LOW MAINTENANCE

You really can have it all in your garden area! But wait, for this to occur you will need to determine the amount of time you have available to maintain the planting area, since it required considerable time, energy, and money to create it. Time must be dedicated to the planting area to maintain it, and to keep it looking its best. Understanding your time constraints, and availability for maintenance is a critically important aspect in determining plant selection. Luckily, the availability of low maintenance plants is astounding. Most trees, shrubs, and grasses require little to no maintenance. Each can provide height, and structure, while increasing "curb appeal". Utilize topiaries as another way to reduce garden maintenance, as many only require a light trim annually. There are plenty alternatives to add interest, and focal points while creating dramatic statements to form a cohesive framework with your planting design. And finally remember this, if you choose native or drought tolerant plants, during the dog days of summer, you can forget to water or choose not too, as the plants won't mind!

For more information or to have all your gardening questions answered, contact the Orange County Master Gardeners: Website: https://txmg.org/orange-face-book: Orange County Texas Master Gardeners Association Helpline: (409) 882-7010 Email: extension@co.orange.tx.us.















Orange County Food Safety

Tips for Spring Cleaning Your Kitchen from Fight BAC!

Spring is here, even if the weather might not quite feel like it yet in some parts of the country. It's a great time to get started on some spring cleaning.

According to the CDC, every year, an estimated 1 in 6 Americans get food poisoning, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die from foodborne diseases. A clean and dry kitchen helps protect you and your family from foodborne illness.

Fight BAC!: The Partnership for Food Safety Education has some tips on how to keep your clean kitchen:

It's important to know the difference between cleaning and sanitizing. They aren't the same thing. Both are important to help prevent the spread of harmful germs.

- Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
- Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects. This process works by disinfecting surfaces or objects using a diluted liquid chlorine bleach solution (combine 1 tablespoon liquid chlorine bleach with 1 gallon of water in a clean bucket).

When You Should Clean

- To remove dried food and spills from countertops
- To remove food from a stove top
- Wipe down interior refrigerator surfaces with hot water and soap

When You Should Sanitize

- Someone sneezed all over your countertop
- Someone sick touched your refrigerator door handle or faucet
- Raw meat juice spilled on countertop, stove, sink, floor or in refrigerator
- Raw meat touched a countertop, stove top, sink, utensil or cutting board or shelf in your refrigerator

Some cleaning tips you should practice year round to make your kitchen and your meals safer include:

- Your counters may look clean, but bacteria may be hiding all over your kitchen. Always clean surfaces thoroughly with hot water and soap. After thoroughly washing surfaces with hot water and soap, you can sanitize them with a diluted chlorine bleach solution or a disinfectant kitchen cleaner. Let the solution stand on the surface for several minutes, then rinse with cold water and air dry or pat dry with fresh paper towels. Bleach solutions can lose their effectiveness over time, so discard unused portions after one week.
- Kitchen towels and sponges provide a moist environment for bacteria to grow. Consider using paper towels to clean up kitchen surfaces and dry your hands. When done, throw away the towel. If you use cloth towels, wash them often in the hot cycle of your washing machine. If you use kitchen sponges, replace them frequently.
- Rid your fridge of spills, bacteria, mold and mildew. Clean your refrigerator weekly to kill germs that could contaminate foods. To tackle bacteria, mold and mildew, clean interior refrigerator surfaces with hot water and soap. Rinse with a damp cloth; dry with a clean cloth. Manufacturers recommend against using chlorine bleach, solvent cleaning solutions, or abrasives as they can damage seals, gaskets and linings.
- Food particles get trapped in the drain and disposal, creating the perfect environment for bacterial growth. Clean your kitchen sink, drain and disposal once or twice a week with warm water and soap. Disinfect your drain and disposal by pouring in a solution of 3/4 teaspoon chlorine bleach per guart of water.
- Microwaves often get overlooked in day-to-day cleaning, but you can get your microwave clean with just a few steps. Heat a microwave-safe bowl filled with water on high for approximately 4 minutes. Remove bowl and use hot water and dish soap to wipe down the microwave interior. Dry with a fresh paper towel.

foodsafetynews.com





James Scales, Health Inspector Deputy Director Orange County Environmental Health and Code Compliance



Orange County
Master Gardeners
were set up at
Art in the Park.





No Double Dipping

Share the dip, not the germ! Although the temptation to dip again is normal...Don't double dip! Research has proven and science suggests that double dipping can be hazardous to your health. Double dipping contaminates the dip with bacteria from your mouth and hands check out these option to keep in mind when dip is the center of attention!



Facebook Orange County Texas Master Gardeners Association

Website: https://txmg.org/orange

Email: ocmg1990@gmail.com

Gardening Hot Line
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 am to 2 pm
Call 409-882-7010
Or can email questions, concerns and or
pictures to
extension @co.orange.tx.us

BBQ's, picnics, and outdoor adventures, oh my! Summer tends to keep you busy outside, hence all the delicious meals as well. Learn the basics of finger food etiquette so you'll be ready for all the finger-licken' food.

Eating foods with your fingers can be quite fun, but also tricky. Here's the low-down of what you need to know before picking away:

Always wash your hands before and after enjoying your delicious foods.

Always have a napkin nearby. Sometimes, utensils are not offered, so it's nifty to use a napkin instead.

Some foods don't require a utensil. Popular items include deviled eggs, roll-ups, vegetables with dip, olives, pickles, crackers, etc.

For appetizer buffets that have serving platters, its best to use the serving utensils rather than your hands to pick up food.

Lastly, if appetizers are served on toothpicks or skewers, pick them up by the stick.



4-H Connect enrollment website https://v2.4honline.com/

Youth Club Member Participation Fee

\$30 November 1st to the completion of 4-H year (clover kids, ages 5-8* are free)

County 4-H Council
All enrolled 4-H youth are welcome to
be a part of County Council
1st Monday 6 pm
4-H Office

Dusty Trails 4-H & Clover Kids Club
1st Tuesday
6:30 pm 4-H Office
Club Manager
Anna Bandy
409-988-3666

Tractor Supply
Paper Clover dates
Spring:
April 27th - May 8th
Fall:
October 5th - October 1th

Mighty Pirates 4-H 2nd Tuesday 7 pm 4-H Office Club Managers Lisa Edwards 409-554-1960

OC 4-H Judging Club Practice Thursday's 6 pm 4-H Office Club Manager Melissa Pyatt 409-679-2441

Adult Volunteer Application Fee \$10

Adult Leaders Association (ALA)
1st Monday 6 pm
4-H Office
All enrolled Adult Volunteers are
welcomed to be a part of ALA

Clay Busters Shotgun
Sports
Meetings 3rd Tuesday
6 pm 4-H Office
Practice Tuesdays 6 pm
Orange County Gun Club
Club Manager
Robert Caffey
409-767-6222

Projects outside of clubs

Equine
Riders & Non-Riders
3rd Monday 6pm
Tin Top 2 (T2) Arena
Old Peveto Road Orange
Leader Sharon Dowden

Food & Nutrition
3rd Tuesday 6pm
4-H Office
Leader Lettie LeBert

Fashion & Interior Design TBA Robotics
4th Monday
4-H Office
NEW TIMES
Youth 5-8
6 pm-7 pm
Youth 9-18
6 pm to 8 pm
Leader
Cindy Childress

No cost to members who participate in projects

If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions about the physical access provided, please Orange AgriLife Office 409-882-7010, at least 2 weeks prior to the program or event you are interested in.

Orange County Livestock Show 2022 Friday, Oct. 7th & Saturday, Oct. 8th

June 1st deadline to order birds. Minimum order of 25 birds at \$2 each per family Livestock tag-in & pay for birds Saturday, July 9th Bird pickup Friday, August 5th





Record Book Contest

July 12, 2022
No entry fee
4-H Record books are due in the
AgriLife Office by Thursday *June 9th*https://d94-h.tamu.edu/eventsandcontests/recordbook-judging/

District 9 4-H Leadership Lab
Tuesday June 28th - Thursday June 30th
Location & Cost: To Be Decided
Entry/Registration Deadline is May 25th
Open for youth in 7th - 12th grades.
The focus of this event is to provide 4-H members
the opportunity to learn valuable leadership and
life skills by participating in variety of educational
activities, team-building exercise, and learning
sessions.

If you are interested in attending please let the AgriLife office know in advance.

Orange County Food Safety



How To Tell If Your Eggs Are Bad

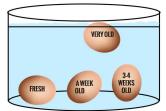
When in doubt, throw it out.

You know that date stamped onto your egg carton? It's not actually an expiration date; eggs are usually good well past that date. In fact, if you've kept the eggs in their carton and in a chilly refrigerator, they can be good for weeks beyond the stamped date. But if you don't go by that date, how can you be sure your eggs haven't gone bad?

Here's how to tell if your eggs are still fresh even after the "best by" date has sailed on past.

The Fresh Egg Water Test

Fill a bowl with water, and carefully place an egg on top. If the egg sinks like a stone, laying down on its side, it's still very fresh! If it sinks but doesn't lay flat — and instead it kind of stands up, wobbling — your egg is OK and probably just right for hard-boiling. Egg salad, anyone? If the egg floats on the top, that's an indication that your egg is possibly past its prime. Floating doesn't necessarily mean it's gone bad, just that it's no spring chicken, as it were. But better safe than sorry. When in doubt, throw it out.

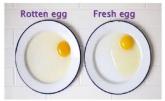


How Old Are Your Eggs?

If you look at the date stamp on your carton of eggs, you'll notice a recognizable date ("SELL BY MAY 11," for example). And you'll also notice two sets of additional numbers. They may seem a little random, but they're actually indicating 1.) the packing date for the eggs and 2.) the plant in which they were packaged — an important indicator in the event of a recall.

As for the packing date, it's very easy to understand once you know what's what. This set of numbers runs 1 through 365, which is (not coincidentally) the number of days in the year. So if the number on the carton is 032, for example, you know that because there are 31 days in January, the eggs were packed on February 1, which is the 32nd day of the year. Eggs are generally packed very soon after they're laid.

So if your eggs are beyond the "best by" date but they've passed the water test — meaning, they were packed a reasonable amount of time ago and they wobbled or sank onto their sides in water rather than floating on top — crack one open.



Obviously, if you crack open an egg and it smells bad, it's fit for the garbage. But there are a few more subtle things to look for. A fresh egg will have bright orange yolk and the whites will still have some spring to them. If the yolk is dull and yellowish and the whites run out lifelessly onto the plate, the egg is old. But again, an older egg isn't necessarily a bad egg. So give it a sniff; your nose will know. An egg should have a neutral smell. If there's no funky odor, it's probably OK. If you pick up sour or mildewy notes on the nose, toss it.

If your eggs are approaching the "best by" date, and you'd feel better cooking them, make pickled eggs! We have a bunch of recipes for pickled eggs. It's a terrific, tasty way to preserve your eggs.

But don't think that simply boiling your eggs will preserve them. Boiling them, in fact, may do the opposite and speed up their demise. **Once you boil an egg it stays fresh for only about a week**. Which means, you could take half the eggs from a carton of fresh eggs, boil them, and those eggs could go bad well before the raw eggs that you left alone. Though it sounds strange, it actually makes sense: The boiled eggs go bad faster because boiling removes a naturally occurring waxy covering that protects the raw eggs from bacteria. Without it, bacteria can sneak through the porous shells.

How Can You Tell If Hard-Boiled Eggs Are Bad?

The best way to test if your eggs are still good after you've boiled them is, again, the smell test. Basically, you'll notice the off smell if an egg is starting to go bad. This is true for raw eggs; it's true for boiled eggs. The funk doesn't lie.

What Happens When You Eat A Bad Egg?

If a bad egg somehow sneaks past your sniffer, and you eat it, you could be in for some unpleasant stomach upset. But beyond eating an egg that's gone bad, there is the issue of eggs that are tainted with salmonella bacteria. The good news is, contamination is very rare — estimates range from one in every 10,000-30,000 eggs are infected with salmonella. Unlike good eggs that have simply gone bad, an egg infected with salmonella won't smell bad. Symptoms of salmonella poisoning include vomiting, fever, diarrhea, and stomach cramps. They typically appear within 12-to-72 hours of eating the infected food and may last several days. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that although most people will recover without medical treatment, "in some cases, diarrhea may be so severe that the patient needs to be hospitalized...The elderly, infants, and those with impaired immune systems are more likely to have a severe illness."

You can help protect yourself from salmonella by following these tips:

Quick Tips for Stayin on the Safe Side

- Buy eggs that are sold in refrigerated cases.
- Store your eggs in their carton in the refrigerator at 40-degrees F or below.
- Don't wash your eggs until you're ready to prepare them.
- Toss out cracked eggs. Bacteria can sneak through cracks.
- Leave hard-boiled eggs in the fridge in their shells. Don't peel the eggs until you're ready to eat them.







James Scales, Health Inspector Deputy Director Orange County Environmental Health and Code Compliance



Weed Management in Turfgrass Part 1

John Green, Certified Texas Master Gardener



Spring at last, spring at last! Hello everyone, I'm excited since spring has finally arrived for us in Southeast Texas and with it a host of gardening opportunities to beautify your outdoor space. So, let's begin by checking off some of our gardening accomplishments thus far: vegetables planted in raised vegetable beds', check. Perennial and annual flowers planted in flower gardens', check. New shrubs and trees planted in large containers', check. Hanging baskets strategically placed on front and back porches', check. There is another area which now deserves our attention, turfgrass lawncare, or more specifically, weed control and management. Understanding weed types will go a long toward managing weed proliferation throughout your lawn.

Spiny Sowthistle

Each classification of weed is treated differently in the way it is managed and controlled. Before we can talk about weed control or management though, we need to understand some basics about weeds, such as there are three major classifications of weeds: annual, biennial, and perennial.

An annual weed begins as a seed and completing its life cycle in under a year. Often, they are easiest to control but the abundance of seeds produced at the end of their life cycle means they can be persistent year after year. Also note annual weeds can be further divided into summer and winter annual weeds. Summer annual weeds germinate during spring and grow through

summer and set seed in autumn. The seeds remain dormant through winter. The following spring starts the cycle over. Here are some of their names: cocklebur, morning glory, lambs' quarters, common ragweed, crabgrass, pigweed, foxtail, and goose grass. Winter annual weeds germinate in late summer or early autumn, with their plants maturing to form seeds in later spring or early summer then dying. Their seeds stay dormant during summers' heat which inhibits seed germination. To name a few: wild mustard, henbit, and spiny sowthistle.

Biennial weeds live longer than one year but less than two years. Fortunately, there are only a few weeds which fall into this category, such as: wild carrot, bull thistle, common mullein, and burdock



Bull thistle

Perennial weeds live two years or much longer. Perennial weeds are further classified by their reproductive means: simple or creeping. Simple perennial weeds spread mainly by seed, but if cut into pieces, the segments can produce new plants. For example, when a dandelion is cut in half, each piece will produce a new plant. So, instead of one weed, you'd now have two! Some other examples are buckhorn, plantain, broadleaf plantain, and pokeweed.



dandelion

Creeping perennials reproduce weeds by roots that creep along the ground, just below the soil surface using rhizomes, in addition to seeds. Many of these weeds have roots which grow deep into the soil, more than 12 inches deep and means pulling the weed will leave its' roots and rhizomes in the soil, allowing the plant to regrow often spreading or doubling in size. Examples of creeping perennial weeds are red sorrel, perennial sow thistle, field bindweed, wild strawberry, mouseear chickweed, ground ivy, nutsedge (nutgrass), torpedo grass, smilax, Virginia buttonweed and quack grass. Once your lawn has become affected, these are some of the hardest weeds to control!

The best weed control and management is a well-established and healthy turfgrass. Many of us have St. Augustine grass in our yards. Some yards have Bermuda grass while others may have Centipede grass. As with many lawns in the area, my lawn is a mixture of turf grasses but mainly Saint Augustine and Centipede. Maintaining a turfgrass lawn requires a bit of time, as all

plants do for good health. Lawn moving is by far the most time-consuming activity of turfgrass maintenance. Sharp mower blades are imperative to maintaining a healthy, great looking lawn, so before adjusting your mowers' deck, check to ensure the mower blades are sharp or simply install new blades. Before mowing your lawn, adjust your mowers' cutting deck height to ensure only the top one-third of turfgrass growth will be removed each cutting. Remember, the taller the grass, the deeper the root structure will be. Fertilize your lawn with a slow-release fertilizer, which will make for a great looking lawn. Please note that Centipede grass does not like any type of weed and feed fertilizers. Instead use a straight fertilizer mix. Allow your turfgrass clippings to remain on the lawn as they will become thatch, eventually breaking down into mulch for the lawn. Watering is also an important practice in keeping a good turf root system growing. Lawns need an inch of water per week either via rain or an irrigation system. Deep watering is best especially when dry and is more efficient than short shallow watering. Do not water to the point of runoff and always water when the wind is calm.



Nutsedge

Weed Management in Turfgrass Part 2

John Green, Certified Texas Master Gardener

Hello budding gardeners and seasoned horticulturists! This is part two in our continuing discussion of how to manage and control the various weed types found in turfgrass around southeast Texas. The focus of our discussion will be controlling weeds in Turfgrass. Weed control can be achieved utilizing numerous methods. One of the best methods of weed control is by digging weeds out of the lawn individually. Of course, this method will be extremely labor intensive if more than a few weeds are present or insurmountable if a multitude of weeds are present! One method of weed removal for a large area which doesn't have Turfgrass, is to simply cover the area with plastic sheets. Leaving the plastic sheets in place for several weeks (3 to 4 weeks works best) will utilize the suns' energy to generate heat to "cook" and destroy weeds. Or yet another method is by using herbicides, either pre or post emergent herbicides and are in both chemical and organic forms.

Pre-emergent herbicides must be applied before the weed seeds germinate and sprout through the soil surface. For control of warm-season annual weeds, apply a pre-emergence herbicide in early spring, which is January through March, before the soil temperature reaches 55 degrees F. For weeds which tend to sprout later in the summer, a second application may be necessary in June or July. For cool-season annual weeds, apply in August to September.

HERBICIDES:

Post-emergent: are applied after weeds have sprouted. They are most effective when weeds are still small, less than 4 inches high.

Contact: cause damage wherever they touch a plant. For them to work well, they must cover all parts of the weed, i.e., leaves and stems, tops, and undersides.

Systemic: are absorbed via plants' cell walls and then moved throughout the plant. They are applied to either the soil surrounding the plant, the plant itself or both. They are moved through the plant from foliage to roots, stems, or other parts of the plants. They work well on perennial weeds, as the herbicide moves into all parts of the plant, especially the root, tuber and rhizome which stops root growth. Must be applied multiple times in 6-to-8-week intervals especially true for tougher weeds.

Selective herbicides will kill one type of plant but not others, like your turf grasses. Non-selective herbicides kill most any plant. Great care must be taken before using non-selective herbicides and they should be used only as a last resort.

It is imperative to always read and follow the directions listed on the herbicide before attempting to apply any herbicide. Ensure the herbicide to be used is specific to the weed(s) to be managed and controlled. Read before Spraying and never spray on a windy day!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service recommends the following for these specific types of weeds:

Sandbur, grassbur, spurweed, cocklebur: pre-emergent, apply by March 1; Brands – PreM by Lesco; Amaze Grass & Weed Preventor by Green Light; Surflan, A.S. by Southern Ag.; Weed & Grass Preventor by Lilly Miller; weed Stopper by Lawn & Garden Products.



<u>Virginia</u> <u>Buttonweed</u>: postemergent in St. Augustine grass lawns, such as dicamba (Banvel) or products containing dicamba (Trimec) which provides some control with two or more applications in spring and summer. If some discoloration of St. Augustine grass can be tolerated, Confront at 2 pints per acre and Scotts

DMC at 1 ounce per acre have demonstrated good control of button-weed.

Crabgrass: a number of very good herbicides have been developed for turf as a result of that research. DCPA (Dacthal), simazine (Princep), besulide (Betasan, Pre-san), benefin (Balan), dithiopyr (Dimension), oxadiazon (Ronstar), oryzalin (Surflan), prodiamine (Barricade), pendimethalin (Pre-M) and napropamide (Devrinol) are some of the materials available for preemergence crabgrass control. Since crabgrass germinates from April to September in most areas of the country (slightly shorter periods in other areas), few of these herbicides provide seasonlong control. All these products should be applied about 2 weeks prior to the expected date of emergence of crabgrass

Dandelion: spray 2,4-D in spring before blooms set.

<u>Chickweed</u>: spray pre-emergent herbicides such as simazine, dithiopyr, dacthal, oryzalin, pendimethalin and isoxaben in fall.

Henbit: Dicamba, MCPP and 2,4-D have demonstrated effective control in the fall and early spring.

Yellow Sorrel: apply in early spring pre-emergent herbicides such as dacthal, oryzalin (Surflan), pendimethalin (Pre-M), isoxaben (Gallery), dithiopyr (Dimension) and oxadiazon (Ronstar).

Prostrate or Spotted Spurge: dacthal, pendimethalin and Surflan have provided good pre-emergent control of spurge in warm season turfgrasses. To be effective, they must be applied in early spring with a second application being required 60 days after the initial application.



Quack grass and Torpedo grass: unfortunately, the only herbicide which will get rid of this weed is qlyphosate. Safe handling of this herbicide is critical! Wear gloves, longsleeves, and respirator (mask) when using this

herbicide. Paint weed with brush to keep from damaging nearby plants. Or try to dig the plant out after it rains, making sure to get all the roots but note the roots can be a foot deep in the ground.

Nutsedge or nutgrass: pre-emergent herbicide metolachlor (Pennant) is labeled for the control of yellow nutsedge (commonly known as nutgrass) in ornamental beds. For post-emergent control of sedge, the herbicide imazaquin (Image) is labeled for purple and yellow nutsedge (commonly known as nutgrass).

<u>Chamberbitter</u> weed: pre-emergent herbicides with atrazine applied in the early spring prior to germination. Another found in granular form containing isoxaben must be watered in. Postemergent herbicides also with atrazine are effective when applied to young weeds. Seeds need light to germinate so mulching with 3-4 inches in garden beds will help.



Please note the list of weeds is extensive, but these are the most common weeds in our area.

If you have specific gardening questions or need more information, contact the Orange County Master Gardeners **Helpline**: (409) 882-7010 or visit our website: https://txmg.org/orange, **Facebook**: Orange County Texas Master Gardeners Association or **Email**: extension@co.orange.tx.us.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ORANGE COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK MEMBERS WHO SHOWED AT THE SOUTH TEXAS STATE FAIR



Chicken and Broccoli Pockets

10 1/2 pocket servings

- ♦ 1 1/2 cups chicken breast, cooked, diced or shredded
- ♦ 1 cup broccoli baby florets
- ♦ 1/2 cup sour cream, nonfat
- ♦ 1/2 tablespoon ranch dip mix
- ♦ 1 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded, nonfat
- 1 classic pizza crust, refrigerated.
- Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Place parchment paper over a baking sheet.
- 2. In a large bowl stir together chicken, broccoli, sour cream, and ranch dip mix.
- 3. Add in shredded mozzarella cheese and fold together.
- Unroll refrigerated pizza crust on a large wooden cutting boards. Stretch out horizontally to the size of a 9x13 casserole dish.
- 5. Slice crust vertically into 5 sections. Measure 1/2 cup of filling and place on one side of each section.
- 6. Distribute filling and fold over the empty layer of crust over the filling. Press edges with fingers or the edge of a fork.
- 7. Transfer pockets to a prepared baking sheet and bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes until golden brown.
- 8. Let pocket cool slightly before serving.

Freezing for Late?

1. individually wrap pockets after cooled with freezer paper or parchment paper. Place in a plastic freezer bag for freezing for up to 2-3 months.

Reheating Frozen Pockets

- 1. Microwave: Remove pockets from the freezer and individually warm in the microwave wrapped for 2-3 minutes until heated through to 165 degrees F. Toast on a heated griddle for added crunch!
- 2. Oven: Remove from freezer an unwrap. Place on a prepared baking sheet and place inside a preheated oven for 350 degrees F for 20-30 minutes until heated through to 165 degrees F.

Nutrition Facts:

Serving Size 1/2 pocket; Calories 160; Total Fat 2g; Saturated Fat .5g; Cholesterol 25mg; Sodium 500mg; Total Carbohydrate 22g; Total Sugars 4g; Protein 14g. Dinnertonight.tamu.edu





Garden Pest Control

By John Green, Orange County Master Gardener



Honeybee foraging (Image courtesy Texas A & M)

Hello everyone, I certainly hope each one of you is experiencing our wonderful spring weather, mostly sunny days with moderate temperature makes for pleasant outdoor gardening activities. It's time to take advantage of this opportunity and complete gardening tasks while beautifying your outdoor space. Many of you have already begun creating your personal paradise by planting trees, shrubs, annual and perennial flowers. Some gardeners have also planted vegetable gardens either in the ground, raised beds or containers. Growing tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables can be rewarding, especially when harvesting fruits and vegetables. Once vegetable and flower transplants, shrubs and trees are planted, we need to shift our attention to garden pest control and management.

There are numerous ways to repel the pests, which are insects that like to invade our flower and vegetable gardens. We have a few methods available to help us manage pests in our gardens: chemical, organic, and biological. Note, if choosing the chemical method, there is a risk to spraying the product on growing vegetables which might contaminate them during their growth process.

When using the chemical method, determine which insect is creating the problem, since all chemicals are not the same and will not work on every pest. It is imperative to read the pesticides' label, ensuring the insect to be killed is listed. Pesticides can be toxic to humans, pets, and the environment. Use them carefully and as directed. We must all do what we can to protect bees and haphazard use of pesticides is known to be harmful to bees which are necessary for pollinating fruits and vegetables, as well as ornamental plants. The best time to apply pesticides is early evening, once bees have finished foraging for the day. If you have beehives, cover them during the pesticide application process.

Besides the chemical method, there are organic and biological choices for pest control, which are more eco-friendly. For some of us, the moment we step outside, insects are drawn to us! There is a way to fight back against mosquitos, gnats, flies, and other pesky flying insects-use essential oils rather than sticky lotions or chemical sprays. Essential oils are natural bug repellents and insects tend to avoid them. The chart includes a list of herbs, that when interplanted in vegetable and flower gardens can help to repel insects.

Herbs:	Insects repelled:
Lemon grass, Lemon thyme, Lemon balm, Mint, Rosemary	House fly, mosquito
Basil, Oregano, Chamomile	House fly, mosquito, carrot fly, white fly, asparagus beetle
Chives, Dill, Catnip, Garlic, Nasturtium	Ants, aphids, beetles, squash bugs, carrot fly
Thyme	White Fly, tomato horn worm, cabbage loppers
Parsley	Asparagus beetles

The chart below lists vegetables and berries which are aided by herb companion plants

Herbs:	Companion Plants:
Basil, Dill, Garlic, Parsley	Tomato, Peppers, Asparagus, Carrots, Lettuce, Onions, Corn
Catnip	Potatoes, Lettuce, Radishes
Chives	All vegetables except Peas and Beans
Nasturtiums	Cucumbers, Squash, Tomatoes, Potatoes
Oregano	Beans, Squash, Cabbage, Cucumbers
Thyme	Cabbage, Potatoes, Strawberries, Blackberries



Companion planting herbs and vegetable (Image courtesy HGTV

Some gardeners would rather use a spray rather than planting herbs and there are several products available which are organic and safe to use. Two of them, neem oil and horticultural soap, I use in my vegetable garden and flowers beds. They work very well at eradicating soft bodied insects such as aphids, white flies, thrips, mealy bugs, and mites for a short time yet has minimal effect on "good bugs".

Perhaps you'd like to make your own spray to remove soft bodied insects? Remember that for any pesticide to work, it must be sprayed directly on the pest. Use pure-castile liquid soap, which is not a detergent like dish soap. Mix the following ingredients: one gallon of water, adding 2.5 tablespoons of pure-castile liquid soap and one tablespoon of vegetable oil into a garden sprayer. Mix well before using. Once finished spraying, empty sprayer and clean. For smaller batches use 1 teaspoon pure-castile liquid soap per each quart water.



Tomato horn worn with parasitic wasp eggs (Image courtesy Ecosystem United)

The biological method of pest control is the most eco-friendly control method. Beneficial insects can be purchased, then simply release them into your garden area but know that once they have destroyed or consumed the pests, they will not remain. There are numerous beneficial insects for the different pests and choosing this method of insect control can quickly become cost prohibitive while wanted results may take longer than using another control method of pest control.

If you have specific gardening questions or need more information, contact the Orange County Master Gardeners

Helpline: (409) 882-7010
Website: https://txmg.org/orange,

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Email: extension@co.orange.tx.us.



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AGRILIFE ORANGE COUNTY 2022 CALENDAR

MAY

- * 10th 53rd Annual Senior Citizen Rally Day
- * 23rd & 24th Certified Food Managers Course
- * 25th Food Handler's Course

JUNE

- * 11th Hunter Education Course
- * 13th-17th Youth Cooking Camp

JULY

- * 4th Independence Day Holiday Office Closed
- * 5th-7th Youth Beginners Sewing
- * 12th Youth Canning Class
- * 16th Hunters Education Course
- * 19th-21st Youth Clover Kids Camp

AUGUST

- * 2nd Food Safety Conference
- * 4th Michael Hoke's Annual Outdoor Awareness
- * 6th Hunters Education Course
- * 9th 4-H Open House
- * 25th 4-H Awards Banquet

SEPTEMBER

- * 3rd Hunters Education Course
- * 5th Labor Day Holiday Office Closed

OCTOBER

- * 2nd-8th National 4-H Week
- * 7th & 8th Orange County Livestock Show
- * 7th & 8th Orangetober Fest
- * 22nd Hunters Education Course



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Orange County