

October 2010
Volume 8, Issue 10

**October 6, 2010
HCMG monthly
meeting is at
1 p.m. at Kerr
County AgriLife
Extension Office.**

***We have a
surprise
speaker!***

Contents

President's Message	1
Calendar of Events	2
August Minutes	3
Thunder Turf	4
Sunny Side Up	5
Medicinal Plants	6
Cacti	7
Oct Veg. Garden	8
Flower Gardening, Green Steps	9
Website of Month, Medina Garden Patch	10



President's Message - *Chris Seifert*

Can you sense it? Fall is almost here. I know because the cantaloupe is all finished and it's time to plant carrots. That means we are also drawing to the close of 2010. October is the month of *Down by the Riverside* and the *Kerr County Fair*.

If you have nominations to make for 2011 officers, call **Anne Brown** now. At the October 6 meeting the 2011 slate of officers will be presented. Then in November you will vote for next year's leaders.

Throughout October, project leaders are evaluating their teams' successes in order to make a final 2010 report in November. They are also making plans for the future. If you have ideas to share, contact me or those leaders directly. Now is the time to be heard!

Well done and congratulations to newly certified Master Gardeners, **Jackie Connelly, Steve Comer and Joyce Studer**. I am continually amazed at the skills, interests and commitment of our members, new and "old."



*From left: Newly certified HCMGs Jackie Connelly, Steve Comer and Joyce Studer
Photo by Carol Brinkman .*

Program Chair, **Penny Scroggins**, resigned her position effective December, so she can travel more broadly. Thank you, Penny, for the really fine programs this year. We really appreciate your hard work.

I'm pleased to announce that **Melva Chancellor** has stepped up to be our Program Chair for 2011. If you have ideas for a particular speaker, or want to know more about a particular topic, she's anxious to hear from you!

I can't put it off any longer. I have to confess. Despite my several absences from meetings due to family deaths this year, I will be gone once more. My plane for Iquitos, Peru, leaves on October 5th. I trust you will understand that an invitation to a Peruvian mission trip took precedence over my presence at our next meeting. I'll return October 16 – totally worn out, I'm sure!

Once again I praise those who will carry on in my stead, my co-workers and friends, **Barbara Elmore** and **Eileen Haden**. Master Gardeners, you are in capable hands. There couldn't be a more supportive, able group than you are. Thanks.

**Now online!
Member Carol Seminara's
bi-weekly column for the
Kerrville Daily Times, "How Green
Is Your Garden?" is being regularly
posted at www.dailytimes.com.
Click "Lifestyles," then
"Home and Garden."**



Calendar of Events by Betty West

(Attendance at events other than Master Gardener meetings is optional; events are listed for those wishing to attend other educational offerings.)

Be sure to call and confirm event.

September 21 – Hunt

Garden Club meets at the Hunt United Methodist Church's Activity Hall. Brunch is served at 9:30 a.m. followed by the program at 10 a.m. Stephanie Ertle will discuss "A Year Living Off the Grid." Visitors welcome.

September 21 - Kerr Cactus and Succulent Society meets at 7:00 p.m. at Butt-Holdsworth Library in Kerrville. Cary Burgess, aka "Dr. Doppler," will discuss "Weather Patterns." Visitors welcome.

September 25 – HCMG Market Days Plant and Rain Barrel Sale at Kerr County Court House. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. This is our last sale of the year.

September 25 – Cibolo Nature Center & Boerne NPSOT sponsoring free "Tour of Yards" throughout the Boerne area. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
<http://cibolo.org/calendar/event/tour-of-yards-1>
Maps for the five gardens will be posted on website Sept. 22nd.

September 28 – Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT meets at 7:00 p.m. at Gillespie County Historical Society Bldg. in Fredericksburg. Lonnie Childs, NPSOT member, will discuss "Stories of Early Texas Botanists." Visitors welcome.

October 2 – Riverside Nature Center and Hill Country Texas Master Naturalists co-host "Down by the Riverside" festival and Native Plant Sale at RNC. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

October 5 – Kerrville NPSOT meets at Natives of Texas Demo Garden, 4256 Medina Hwy. (11 miles south of Kerrville on Hwy 16 S) at 5 p.m. David Winningham will speak on "Success with

Madrones." Bring a picnic and eat while viewing new riparian area and natural springs. Visitors welcome.

October 6 – HCMG monthly meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Kerr County Agrilife Extension Office. Speaker TBA.

October 9 – "Urban Farming – The Ultimate Backyard Experience" in Schertz. 8 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. MGs can earn their entire 6 hours CEUs at this workshop. Registration deadline is Sept. 20th.
<http://www.tcmastergardeners.org/what/conference.html>

October 13 – Fredericksburg Garden Club meets at 2:00 p.m. at the Memorial Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 607 N. Milam. Pat McCormick (HCMG) will discuss "Flower Arranging 101." Visitors welcome.

October 16/17 – Wildseed Farms, near Fredericksburg, hosts "Monarch Butterfly Celebration." For information <http://www.wildseedfarms.com/monarchbutterfly.html>

October 19 - Kerr Cactus and Succulent Society meets at 7:00 p.m. at Butt-Holdsworth Library. Dave Gutman will address "Surprise Succulent Gardens." Visitors welcome.

October 26 – Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT meets at 7:00 p.m. at Gillespie County Historical Society Bldg. in Fredericksburg. Travis Gallo, of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, will discuss the "Impact Non-Native Exotic Plants Are Having On Our Texas Ecosystems." Visitors welcome.

HCMG MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

At 2:00 p.m., immediately following our speaker, President **Chris Seifert** opened the business meeting.

Barbara Elmore announced the certification of four new master gardeners: **Jackie Connelly, Joyce Studer, Jan Spencer** and **Steve Comer**. Congratulations!

Announcements:

June Sher - Mentor sign-up sheet passed around.

Marilyn Pease - Greenhouse watering sign-up needed for months of September/October.

Chris Seifert - Volunteers are needed for the MG booth at the Kerr County Fair October 22-24.

Judy Simmons – New computer table and chairs have been placed in the MG office. An update was given on the new printer provided by the Extension Office. Also, Chris thanked **Cheri Bolden** and her husband for their assistance in disabling our old computer equipment for disposal.

Chris Seifert - Now searching for a 2011 Program Chairman and possibly an assistant to that position. If interested, contact Chris.

The Logo Group (Julie Bartosh, Carol Brinkman and Judy Fleming) presented the membership with the new chapter logo design, which included in its development the need to be progressive, friendly, clean, organic, speak of Texas and coordinate with the state logo. There is still much work to be done for completion of the design in relation to our website, name badges, stationery, shirts, caps, copyrights, etc. Thanks to the Logo Group for hours and hours of good work!

Sherry Egloff – Warned us of water softener chemicals unintentionally getting into the soil of our home properties.

Anne Moss – Brought a “mystery plant” for member identification.

The meeting was adjourned. The next business meeting will be Wednesday, October 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Secretary,
Fileen Haden



House plant growth slows as the days get shorter and light intensity is reduced. This means that they will need less frequent watering and fertilizing until next spring. Too much of either in the winter months can cause weak growth.

Kathie Marlow

Down by the Riverside - Native Plant Sale & Nature Festival
Saturday - October 2, 2010 - FREE ADMISSION

Please mark your calendar for **Down By the Riverside**, the annual Native Tree and Plant Sale and Fall Festival at Riverside Nature Center **Saturday, October 2nd**, 8am ‘til 3pm, co-sponsored by the Texas Master Naturalists Hill Country. There will be family-friendly activities going on all day, including two free talks on *bats* and *rainwater harvesting*, crafts for kids, live butterfly tent, displays and more. Riverside is looking for volunteers as well as donations of established native plants. Please contact RNC if you can help and be sure to come enjoy the day. Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville, Texas 78028 830-257-4837

All about ... Thunder Turf
**a new Native short grass turf mix from
 Native American Seed, Junction, Texas**

Article submitted by Znobia Wootan

The interest in establishing Native short grass lawns is booming. After last year's devastating drought, many homeowners are looking for a low-maintenance lawn that can survive water restrictions. Thunder Turf will not only *survive* but will *thrive* with as little as 5-12 inches of rain- fall a year — and it doesn't require mowing, fertilizing, watering or chemicals for diseases and pests.

Thunder Turf contains Buffalograss, Blue Grama and Curly Mesquite. Why have a mix of seeds? Studies done by LBJ Wildflower Center have shown that a diversity of grasses holds up better to seasonal differences in temperatures, rainfall, and traffic patterns. The total height of this amazing native short grass mix would be from 4-10 inches tall, depending on rainfall. Soil type really doesn't matter as long as you have at least some for the seeds to germinate in. I've seen Buffalograss and Blue Grama growing in little pockets of soil on limestone hills. Of course that is a long way from lawn quality, but it is a testament to their hardy natures. The Blue Grama is a bunch grass and will spread by seed, while the Buffalograss and the Curly Mesquite spread by runners and by seed. A solid turf-like mat is formed by the runners of the Buffalograss, and the Curly Mesquite inter-

weaves around the Blue Grama until you can't tell which grass is which, unless you get down on your hands and knees. One way to tell them

apart without crawling around on all



fours is to wait until there is a rain — then identification is fairly easy because they will have very different seedheads.

Make the switch to a native lawn and you won't have to worry about getting it mowed, watered or figuring out what is making it turn brown. Better yet — you won't have that guilty feeling when you forget to turn the hose off, or when applying chemicals that are only supposed to kill the targeted pest or disease us, but come with a picture of a skull and crossed bones on the label.

A native lawn saves time, money, water, and the environment.

The easiest way to identify these three native short-grasses is wait until they produce seedheads.



Buffalograss

Blue Grama

Curly Mesquite

Sunny Side Up

By Mikie Baker,
Award Winning Humor Columnist,
Bandera County Courier

Editor's Note: Baker is an active participant in the Medina Garden Patch, a HCMG project.



Every year, around this time, I complain about the heat. For a woman who has spent more than half a century in this great state, you'd think I'd have learned by now that there's really nothing you can do about summer other than call Rick Perry and demand a transfer to Siberia.

But this year seems worse than most. In fact, I've contracted a new, nasty little disease I'll call *Fried Brain Syndrome*. And so has Hill Country Martha.

Since HCM and I are suffering from the same condition, our two *FBS* brains combined don't make one rational one. That's why what I'm about to tell you might just make some sense after all.

As you know, Hill Country Martha and I each built giant vegetable gardens this spring. We fought off frost, hail, too much rain, not enough rain, critters and winds. Because our gardens don't want us to be bored, now they're both crawling with bugs.

I am "fortunate" to have the worst bug of all in my garden – the evil leaf footed bug. These things multiply like crazy and have an attitude. When I walk out to the garden each morning, they stand up, greet me and laugh in my face. I feel like a terrorist organization has taken up residence in the Funny Farm. Say, can somebody call the CIA for me?

Anyway, I have sprayed these little suckers with every organic thing in the book. I even threw cornmeal on them, hoping that with the summer heat, they'd fry up like catfish. But, to no avail.

So I called HCM yesterday morning and announced, "Can I borrow your shot gun? I've got some terrorists to take out."

Luckily, instead of running over with a lethal weapon, she turned to the internet for solutions to what was bugging me. Everything she read I had already tried. That was until she ran across the "Dirt Devil Scorpion Cordless Vac".

Basically, the idea was that you literally vacuum your plants and, poof, no more bugs. It sounded like a great idea to two women with *Fried Brain Syndrome*.

Since I live on a rather tight budget, we came up with a cheap solution. I was to take my Shop Vac out to the garden and see

what I could suck up. Like I said, we are suffering from *FBS*.

So, about dusk, I snuck ever so quietly into the Funny Farm armed with a rather long electric cord and my Shop Vac. Every bug in the vicinity flew away. I decided I needed to devise a surprise attack.

I positioned myself and the Shop Vac by the terrorist's home base, lay down and waited. Sure enough they started coming back to roost. I held the hose in one hand, but when I looked down to turn the machine on, it slipped out of my hand, hit the plants and they scattered again.

I jumped up, wildly vacuuming up air out of the sky, part of my ponytail and most of the dirt in one of the beds. The Shop Vac shuddered and turned off. I poured the dirt back into the bed and gave up for the night.

This morning I plan on giving it one more try as my *Fried Brain Syndrome* has not subsided. And Hill Country Martha's bringing her Shop Vac too, so together maybe we can get a handle on the terrorists before we are banned to Siberia.

Don't you just love summer in Texas?

Copyright Medina Mikie, Ink. 2010

Here's our Marilyn Pease's explanation of Mikie's Leaffooted bug



Scientific Name:

Leptoglossus phyllopus (Linnaeus)

Order: Hemiptera

Family: Coreidae

Description:

Adults are about 3/4 inch in length and are dark brown



with a whitish to yellowish stripe across the central part of the back. The hind legs have flattened, leaf-like expansions on the tibia. Nymphal stages look similar to adults except that they do not have fully developed wings.

A leaffooted bug in the genus Narnia is common on prickly pear cactus. Another species, Acanthocephala declivis (Say), is one of the largest true bugs in Texas, being over an inch in length as an adult. Adults are particularly active in the fall. Although some members of this group are predaceous, immature stages can be easily confused with assassin bugs.

Medicinal Plants

by Judy Fleming

Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*, *Echinacea angustifolia*, *Echinacea pallida*) has traditionally been used to treat or prevent colds, flu, and other infections. It is believed to enhance the activity of the immune system, relieve pain, reduce inflammation, and have hormonal, antiviral, and antioxidant effects. Less commonly, *echinacea* has been used for wounds and skin problems, such as acne or boils.



Archeological digs discovered that Native Americans used *echinacea* for more than 400 years to treat infections and wounds and as a general "cure-all." Throughout history people have used *echinacea* to treat scarlet fever, malaria, blood poisoning, and diphtheria. Its use in the United States declined after the introduction of antibiotics; however, in Germany, its use is widespread.

All parts of the plant may be used in infusions, teas and tinctures, but it is commonly thought that the above ground part of the plant provides more enhancements to the immune system. The chemicals in *echinacea* that play a therapeutic role are polysaccharides, glycoproteins, alkaloids, volatile oils, and flavonoids. In Germany (where herbs are regulated by the government), the above ground parts of *Echinacea purpurea* are approved to treat colds, upper respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, and slow healing wounds. Professional herbalists also recommend *echinacea* to treat vaginal yeast (candida) infections, ear infections (also known as otitis media), athlete's foot, sinusitis, hay fever (also called allergic rhinitis).

An adult may use *echinacea* for general immune system enhancement in the following forms and take 3 times a day generally for 7 - 10 days:

- Tea - 1 Tbl of dried root & flower head
- Tincture extract 2 - 3 mL (20 - 90 drops)
- Powdered extract - 300 mg
- Stabilized fresh extract: 0.75 mL (15 - 23 drops)

People with tuberculosis, leukemia, diabetes, connective tissue disorders, multiple sclerosis, HIV or AIDS, any autoimmune diseases, or, possibly, liver disorders should not take *echinacea*. There is some concern that *echinacea* may reduce the effectiveness of medications that suppress the immune system. For this reason, people receiving organ transplants who must take immunosuppressant medications should avoid this herb. People with allergies to the daisy family should not take *echinacea*. When taken by mouth, *echinacea* may cause temporary numbing and tingling on the tongue.



The good news for gardeners is that *echinacea* is not only useful; it's also a beautiful and hardy addition to your perennial beds and borders. The only thing *echinacea* can be somewhat fussy about is too much moisture. It likes a fairly dry soil, and should

never have to sit very long with its roots in wet, soggy soil. They self sow as long as you leave a few of the last flowers to dry up naturally. When weeding the garden in spring, watch for tiny coneflower seedlings. You can also harvest the seeds to use next year by choose a few fully mature and ripened flower heads, and cut them, leaving a nice long stem. Hang the flowers upside down with the flower heads enclosed in paper bags.

Sources:

Botanical.com

<http://www.gardenguides.com>

National Center for Complimentary and Alternative Medicine

HCMG has provided this material for your information. It is not intended to substitute for the medical expertise and advice of your primary health care provider.



A prickly but low-maintenance garden option

By Barbara Elmore

The mysterious and often beautiful cactus offers options to gardeners who don't want high-maintenance plants. Cacti

do not need much TLC, and even withholding water from them doesn't seem to matter much.

One gardening friend who has grown different kinds of cactus for years planted two barrel cacti in large pots on her deck because of their "amazing" appearance. During the summer heat, she watered newly planted cactus in the ground every other day (instead of every day) to nurse them through the establishment period.

She also has planted small barrel and prickly pear cacti that she planted in holey rocks years ago, using very little dirt. They withstand the summer heat on her patio.

Brian and Shirley Loflin, who wrote and photographed cactus for *Texas Cacti*, a field guide for collectors, enjoy the succulents because of their varied shapes, magnificent flowers, and low maintenance.

"They are pretty easy to grow," Loflin noted when he spoke to Hill Country Master Gardeners in August. "They are generally winter tolerant, you don't need to water them much – or fertilize, prune, or fuss around with them." He also noted that cacti bear flowers in every color except blue.

Cacti range in size from dime-sized plants to large, several-hundred-pound barrel cactus, Loflin noted. They are succulents because they store water in their stems or their leaves. As the Loflins' book notes, "Many succulents look like cacti but are not." True cacti are distinguished from other succulents and other plant groups by their anatomy.

Although many cactus enthusiasts will be interested in the structure that makes a cactus what it is and by its root system – both of which the Loflins cover in their guide – others will be enthralled by the book's stunning photos. Obtaining cactus pictures

sometimes required the couple to scramble through places where few human footprints are seen. Their pictures illustrate why the Loflins call cacti "The Glory of Texas."

Texas Cacti also lists the uses of this easy-to-grow plant, from food and the formation of "living fences" – in the case of taller cacti – to the use of the cactus as a source for both fuel and water.

Essentially a field guide to the sometimes prickly but easy-to-grow cactus, the book is the couple's second such directory of growing things in Texas. The first one was *Grasses of the Texas Hill Country: A Field Guide*.

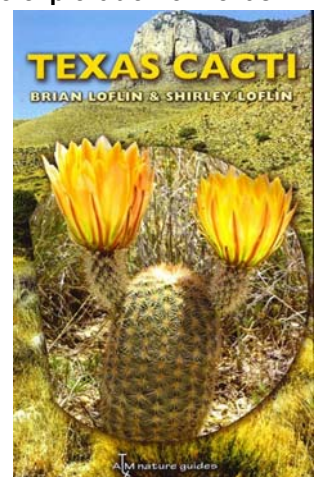
One of the most helpful parts of the book begins on Page 35 in a chapter titled "How to Use This Book." The authors arranged the species so that a cacti enthusiast who is outdoors looking up the plants can identify them without a botanical key. Helpful drawings of stem shapes appear on the next page.

The book notes, "Cactus plants have an overall shape that may be used to separate one genus from another. In addition to the shape of the stem, the shape, growth pattern and other physical characteristics of the spines are significant to the identification of the plant."

Additionally, *Texas Cacti* is filled with detailed descriptions of cactus, including a page that defines cactus terms.

The Loflins have done the legwork of finding cacti and telling the reader what and where they are. But they also encourage those interested in this water-saving plant to do more exploration of Texas cacti. "Texas provides habitat for the most diverse cactus population found...in the United States," the book notes. Further, their adaptability makes them "useful in gardens and landscaping."

The authors encourage collectors to seek their prizes in nurseries rather than collecting cacti in the wild. *Texas Cacti* will help hunters know what they are hunting for.



The October Vegetable Garden

By Christine Millar



- **Transplant cole crops** - There is still time to put in transplants of broccoli, cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower for spring harvest. Local nurseries start to wind down their deliveries of these transplants by month's end. Don't forget to harden off these babies for a few days after purchase. Cover a newly transplanted bed with shade cloth for at least a week to protect the transplants while they get on their feet. Dependable moisture and regular weekly feeding of a diluted complete fertilizer will get them going
- **Seeds and cloves** - Root crops of carrots, cloves of garlic, radish, turnips, and beets can be planted out now. Avoid fertilizing with excessive amounts of nitrogen and don't crowd them so they make good sized roots. Place shadecloth, row cover or hessian over new seed beds to protect the newly emerging seedlings from pests, weather extremes and drying out. Keep the beds moist until the seedlings emerge and gradually remove the covers.

Greens, including lettuce and spinach can be sown inside in cooler conditions for transplanting out next month. These vegetables will not germinate outside until the soil has cooled down. Do try an Asian green called *tatsoi*. It is a cut-and-come-again green that does very well during our winters. It is either stir-fried or steamed.

- **Manures** - Recently I acquired an unwanted pet bunny. When I clean out her toilet corner I put her droppings in a 5 gallon pail and fill the pail with water. The mixture is stirred daily and allowed to soak for a day or two. The resulting dark liquid makes excellent liquid manure and I use it on all of the vegetables. New transplants are watered with a diluted mixture (1 part liquid manure to 4 parts water). Older transplants can take the liquid manure undiluted. The rabbit, apart from providing excellent manure, also has become the house cats personal physical fitness trainer.

Below is a comparison of manures from a website <http://www.plantea.com/manure.htm>. Chicken manure, although plentiful locally is too hot to use straight. The soiled pine shavings from my chicken house are put out onto a resting bed to compost for about 6 months before I can plant in it. Dairy cows and sheep herds are not a feature of the Hill Country and you would have to buy these manures. Steer manure is harvested from feed lots and is full of salts from the very concentrated feeds for fattening cattle. Manure from local grass fed cattle would be a safer alternative and there are plenty of herds locally. Bring a scoop to pick it up! The rabbit manure I have used has not been hot and has more nitrogen than some of the other manures. Goats are everywhere and the nutrients would

probably be similar to sheep. I added tons

of goat manure to my garden one year and it took about a week for the "aroma" to dissipate.

Chicken manure - Poultry manure (chicken in particular) is the richest animal manure in N-P-K. Chicken manure is considered "hot" and must be composted before adding it to the garden. Otherwise, it will burn any plants it comes in contact with.

Dairy (cow) manure - <http://www.plantea.com/maillinglist-current-issue.htm> "Dairy Manure may be the single most useful soil-builder around," says Ann Lovejoy, lifetime organic gardener and writer in Seattle, Washington. "Washed dairy manure from healthy cows is just about perfect for garden use; it can be used as a topdressing and for soil improvement," she adds. Dairy manure is preferable to steer manure, which has a higher salt and weed seed content. Though cow manure has low nutrient numbers, that's what makes it safe to use in unlimited quantities.

Horse manure - Horse manure is about half as rich as chicken manure, but richer in nitrogen than cow manure. And, like chicken droppings, it's considered "hot." Horse manure often contains a lot of weed seeds, which means it's a good idea to compost it using a hot composting method.

Steer manure - Steer manure is an old standbys, but it's not the most loved because it often contains salts and weed seeds.

Rabbit manure - Rabbit manure is even higher in nitrogen than some poultry manures and it also contains a large amount of phosphorus--important for flower and fruit formation.

Sheep manure
Sheep manure is another "hot" manure. It is somewhat dry and very rich. Manure from sheep fed hay and grain will be more potent than manure from animals that live on pasture.

- **Pest Control** - Caterpillars, aphids and a few beetles are still active. Spray with Bt to control caterpillars. Neem, insecticidal soap and pyrethrum will control the aphids. Row cover over new transplants will also help protect them and moderate the cooler nighttime temperatures.
- **Soil preparation for next year** - Sow cover crops in all of the beds that will not be used until spring. Use a seed mix that contains a legume such as clover, vetch or even bluebonnets to help fix the nitrogen in the soil. There is a type of wildlife seed mix available locally that contains a mixture of grasses and legumes that you can use as a cover crop as well. Other non-legume crops that can be used are cereal rye, mustard, etc. Cover crops can be turned under about 8 weeks prior to planting.

Continues of Page 9, Bottom

Manure	Chicken	Diary cow	Horse	Steer	Rabbit	Sheep
N-P-K	1.1 .80 .50	.25 .15 .25	.70 .30 .60	.70 .30 .40	2.4 1.4 .60	.70.30 .90



While working the "Help Desk" newly certified HCMG Steve Comer luxuriates in our beautifully cleaned and arranged office, thanks to Judy Simmons and her helpers.

Photo by Anne Moss

October Gardening Tips And To Do List

by Kathie Marlow



During fall, demand for garden supplies is low, so keep an eye open for special prices on hand tools and power equipment to be given as gifts or used next year.

Note plants displaying outstanding fall colors as you drive along city streets and the surrounding countryside. You may wish to incorporate some of them into your own landscape.

Dig, divide, re-plant overcrowded perennials that have finished flowering. Daylily, agapanthus, yarrow, coreopsis, alstromeria, Shasta daisy, lamb's ears.

Don't allow leaves to accumulate on the lawn. Rake them up regularly, and store in a pile for use as mulch in your garden next summer. If leaves accumulate on your lawn and become matted down by rain, they may kill the grass.

You can help leaves break down more easily by running a lawn mower back and forth over the pile. Put the shredded leaves directly onto the garden or compost pile.

Fall is a good time for moving plants. Transplant deciduous trees and shrubs when they are dormant. Evergreen trees or shrubs, however, may be transplanted earlier in the fall, before they go dormant.

Green Steps



Strengthen Your Immune System

Mushrooms such as shiitake, maitake and reishi contain beta-glucans (complex carbohydrates) that enhance immune activity against infections and cancer and reduce allergies. Fresh shiitake and maitake (also called "hen of the woods") mushrooms are delicious sautéed in a little olive oil.

Bernadell Larson

October Vegetable Gardening continued from Page 8:

The decomposing plants will add humus and increase the fertility of the soil. Keep the cover crop trimmed to 3-6 inches high using hedge clippers during growth because it is very difficult to turn under plants with a lot of top growth. If your vegetable crop has been looking unthrifty then you may have an overabundance of one type of harmful soil nematode that is common in warm southern regions of the USA. The nematodes burrow into plant roots and interfere with normal plant growth. Nodules can be seen on the roots of sickly or unthrifty plants. Cereal rye has a very fibrous root system that interferes with the nematodes. Local gardeners who have used cereal rye as a winter cover crop felt they had less unthrifty plants the following year..

If you don't want to cover crop then at least mix in a layer of manure and cover it with thick mulch of leaves or hay. It will slowly decompose over winter and provide a nice soil for spring planting when you pull the mulch layer back.

Hill Country Master Gardeners 2010 Executive Committee

Chris Seifert - President
Barbara Elmore - Vice President
Eileen Haden - Secretary
Roy Eliff - Treasurer
Randy Simmons - Ex-officio Advisor
Roy Walston - C.E.A. Advisor

Committees & Projects

Archivist: Ida Luckey

Demonstration Garden: Dorothy & David Buchen, Chairs

Education:

Debbie Russell, Chair

Greenhouse: Vicki Killeen & Marilyn Pease, Chairs

HCMG Office Manager: Judy Simmons

Horticultural Inquiry: Anne Moss

Information: Betty West

Jr. Master Gardener Program: Sandy Martin, Chair

Logo Group: Carol Brinkman, Julie Bartosh & Judy Fleming

Market Days:

Ron Smith II, Chair

Mentors: June Sher

Nominations: Anne Brown

Programs: Penny Scroggins

Public Relations: Carol Biggs

Record Keeping & Volunteer Hours: Sharon Johnson

Intern Records: Ida Luckey

Scholarship:

Judy Fleming, Chair

Speakers Bureau: Kathy Lewis

Technology: Cindy Anderson

Volunteer Coordination

Kathleen Russell

Website & Newsletter

Webmaster - Carol Brinkman

Web Assistants -

Anne Moss & Julie Bartosh

Newsletter Editor - Eleanor Baldwin

Assistant Editors - Betty West & Kathie Marlow

Columnists - Christine Millar, Marilyn Pease, Barbara Elmore & Judy Fleming

Environmental Reporter - Bernadell Larson

Submissions to baldwin@kctc.com

Medina Garden Patch



Built and ready to fill.



Website of the Month

by

Carol Brinkman

Many of you may know the television show "Central Texas Gardener" and perhaps watch it faithfully every Saturday at 11 am on KLRN. Saturdays usually find me outside

working in my central Texas garden rather than watching TV. Did you know that the show has its own website where you can watch past episodes from your computer? If you are a fan and missed some episodes, or if you are just curious, check it out at

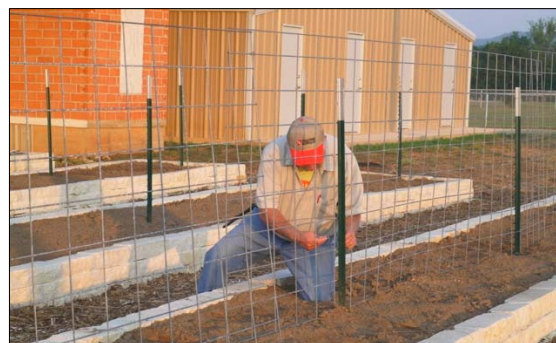
<http://www.klrn.org/ctg/index.php>



Layered newspapers went in next.



Then the layers of compost etc.



Finally, the wire down the middle

Medina Garden Patch photos by Carol Hagemeyer

