

October 2021

Volume 19, Issue 10

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HCMG
October 6, 2021

HCYEC
In-person ONLY

12:00 Social Hour -
Brown Bag Lunch
1:00 Meeting
2:00 Continuing Ed

Induced Resistance
by
David M Vaughan
Arborist
See page 6 for details



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".

President’s Message

Hi Everyone,

Today I want to give thanks to all our coordinators and chairs who are responsible for maintaining our various gardens throughout our communities. It all begins with Bob Huff, special projects coordinator. When an opportunity to volunteer comes up, it is Bob’s job to evaluate the project and see if it fits into our guidelines for approved projects. If it does, the project is then taken to the Executive Committee and our County Extension Agent for approval. After approval, the project coordinator is named and volunteers are recruited. All projects must be non profit organizations and educational in nature. Here’s a list of our garden projects and the coordinators:

- ◆ Judy Beauford and Shirley Smith-Cultivar Farms
- ◆ Peggy Benson -First United Methodist Biblical Garden
- ◆ Jerry Christenson and Linda Profitt -Girl Scouts Building
- ◆ Brenda Fest -Bandera Natural History Museum
- ◆ Kara Grant -Hill Country Cares Vegetable Garden
- ◆ Jan Grimes -Bandera Co. Library Garden
- ◆ Donna Guthrie -Glory Community Garden Butterfly Garden
- ◆ Sue Hall -Boys & Girls Club
- ◆ Donna Bellis -Special Opportunity Center Garden
- ◆ Kathy Lewis -Pioneer Museum Garden
- ◆ Alan Noah and Pam Umstead –Glory Community Garden
- ◆ Kelley Porter –Kronkosky Center
- ◆ Linda Profitt –KISD Early Childhood Center
- ◆ Raeann Reid –Good Samaritan Center Garden



Continued on page 10



This shrubby plant may get 3 to 6' tall, covered in fragrant, fuzzy white blooms from fall through early winter.

White Mistflower: a fall-blooming perennial shrub and a true butterfly magnet



By Cindy Anderson
Native Plant Society
of Texas & HCMG

Texas is a large, diverse state and plants that work for one region may not always be the best choice in a different region. The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) created the N.I.C.E. Native Plant Partners program to help nurseries offer natives that are right for the local environment. Two local chapters of NPSOT, the Kerrville and Fredericksburg chapters, implement this program by choosing one native plant to promote each season – in cooperation with wholesalers, in order to assure availability – and in cooperation with participating local nurseries.

The N.I.C.E. acronym stands for “Natives Improve and Conserve Environments.” The goal of the program is to introduce people to great native plants that are available locally to use in place of non-native species.

WHY PLANT NATIVES?

The home page of the state website, NPSOT.org, says:

- Native plants are drought tolerant, naturally conserving our precious water resources
- Native plants provide habitat and food for birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife
- Native plants don't need special pampering or fertilizing
- Natives are natural to their eco-system
- Natives help us maintain biological diversity

THOROUGHWORT

This fall season (which begins on September 22), the Kerrville and Fredericksburg NPSOT chapters are featuring Thoroughwort (*Ageratina havanensis*), at four local nurseries as their N.I.C.E. Plant of the Season.

Thoroughwort, also known as shrubby white boneset or white mistflower, is native to the Edwards Plateau, central, south and west Texas.

Continued on page 3

THOROUGHWORT is a medium-sized shrub usually growing about 3 feet tall and 3 feet wide, but may grow up to 6 feet tall and 6 feet wide. It is considered deciduous but may be semi-evergreen during a mild winter. It is a nice plant all year long, but really shines in the fall.

This plant explodes in the fall with masses of white, fuzzy, fragrant flowers that act as a magnet to hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, and many other insects. This includes the beautiful Monarch butterfly, whose migration to North America is threatened – and which makes its annual flight south through our area during the mistflower’s bloom time. Its fragrance is not sweet but spicy and earthy. During the day, bees abound in its sprays of white flowers. At night, white moths rise from it as you brush past. It is a true butterfly magnet. In warm years the plant may still have flowers in December.

It is found on limestone hills and rocky ravines in the Edwards Plateau and south into Mexico. The green, triangular-shaped leaves are 1 to 3 inches long and have wavy edges. It is tolerant of dry conditions, although it will tolerate poorly drained areas as well. It grows well in partly shaded to mostly sunny sites, but will bloom more profusely in more sun.

Thoroughwort is lovely weeping over a rock ledge, or as an understory shrub in a naturalized garden, or even in a formal landscape. Good native companion species include Fall Aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*), Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*), Lindheimer's Muhly (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*) and Gayfeather (*Liatris mucronata*), which bloom during the same period.

Deer resistance varies, so it is best to protect this plant in areas of heavy deer pressure. As to maintenance, the Central Texas Gardener website suggests that once blooming starts to slow down with the onset of winter, give it a good, heavy shearing. This will encourage dense new growth in the spring and more profuse blooms next fall. If you don’t shear the plant, future blooming will be sparse, since white mistflower only produces flowers on new wood.

Overall, thoroughwort is a very desirable selection as an understory plant, for a rocky slope, or at the edge of a woodland. This plant requires very little water once established, and is a great addition to any Central Texas landscape, if you want a trouble-free shrub that attracts lots of pollinators!

WHERE TO FIND IT: Our local N.I.C.E. nurseries have happily agreed to stock up on our Plant of the Season in order to have it available to the public. These independent nurseries carry only the best plants for our area, as well as high-quality soil amendments and gardening supplies.

Look for the “N.I.C.E. Plant of the Season” sign stake at these nurseries and growers in Kerrville, Fredericksburg, and Medina:

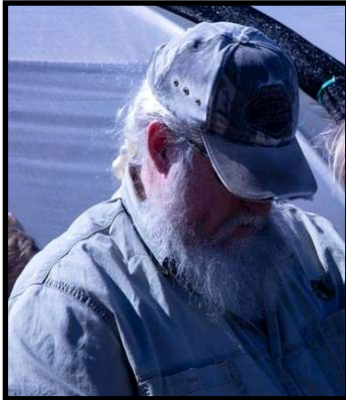
Natives of Texas, 4256 Medina Highway, Kerrville, 830-896-2169

Plant Haus 2, 604 Jefferson Street, Kerrville, 830-792-4444

Friendly Natives, 1107 N. Llano Street, Fredericksburg, 830-997-6288

Medina Garden Nursery, 13417 Tx. Highway 16, Medina, 830-589-2771

Our chapter website contains articles of past N.I.C.E. plants, going back as far as 2009. To peruse the list, go to the following link: <https://npsot.org/wp/kerrville/nice-2> and scroll to the bottom of the page for the list of featured plants.



Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

The temperatures are starting to cool just a bit. This gets me thinking about a fall garden. A few weeks ago, I picked up some Broccoli, Cabbage and Brussel Sprouts transplants. Last week I decided to try and start some Broccoli, Cabbage, Collards, Kole Robby and Swiss Chard from seeds. It has been a few years, and a few more years, since I have started plants from seeds. It's not that difficult but it can be frustrating. It takes a little more than just throwing seeds in a pot and hoping they germinate.



Starter Mix

There are a few things you can do to improve your success. I like to use a seed starting soil mix. These are fine grained soil mixes without the chunks of lumber found in most bags of potting soil mixes. I fill small pot with drainage holes, with the seed starting mix and then wet the soil thoroughly. Then I place a few seeds on top of the soil. I then sprinkle a very thin layer of starting mix to just cover the seeds. You don't want to cover these vegetable seeds with too much soil. I place the pot in a container that will hold water so moisture can wick up from below.



Dry Mix

You have to be careful how you water from above. I recommend using a spray bottle to just spritz the top layer of soil. I have an interesting attachment I'm using that fits a plastic water bottle. This thing is used on a hose fitting to fill water balloons. It works nicely to dribble water on to the soil. The danger with watering from above it that the seed may become displaced by the force of the water when it hits the soil. I like the wicking action from below to keep the soil moist and the spritzing action from above to keep the top area from drying out. Then fun begins.



Moist Mix

I have to clean up from over the summer and prepare and amend the beds in preparation for the fall plants. Compost, a slow-release fertilizer and added potting soil mix are needed. I like to start watering the prepared beds a few days before I plan to plant the transplants. Check to see if the moisture has penetrated down to the root zone before you plant your transplants.



Time to Play

School Gardens



[Introduction to School Gardens](#)



[School Gardens Considerations](#)



[Step by Step Guide to Building a School Garden](#)



[Building an Indoor Growing Science Center](#)



[Ideas and Curricula for School Gardens](#)



[Texas Agricultural Extension Service's 4-H Plant](#)



[Nutritional Benefits of School Gardens](#)



[School Garden Resources](#)



[Starting a School Garden Slide Show](#)



[Harris County Cylinder Gardening](#)

This information comes from <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/kindergarten/CHILD/SCHOOL/SGINTRO.HTM> (copy and paste into your browser)

There are lots of ideas for school gardens in the Aggie website. You might also look at The National Gardening Association site www.Kidsgardening.com

In some schools, gardens are being integrated into the educational curriculum to teach children not only about plants, nature, and the outdoors, but other subjects as well. These pictures are from my grandkids' elementary school in Golden, Colorado. Each class has an 8x4 raised bed to plant. Fence keeps the elk out. Pat Wolters





Paint brush blooming with Beauty berry? Bluebonnets with Sulphur cosmos? The color combos are great but I'm confused about which season this is?!

Photo Credit: Pam Umstead

Continuing Education Program for October



David M Vaughan

An arborist in San Antonio since 1978.

Currently the consulting arborist of Arbor Vaughan Consult, LLC.

Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin SU. 1971.

Master of Agriculture in Natural Resources Development from Texas A & M, 1977.

Among the first group of 19 arborists certified in Texas

Member American Society of Consulting Arborists.

Texas Oak Wilt Certified and Qualified.

Commercial Certified Applicator with TDA.

Former Board of Director member for International Society of Arboriculture, Texas Chapter.

Currently serving on the Board of Directors for Alamo Forest Partnership and San Antonio Arborist Association.

Induced Resistance

How would you like to have a vaccine for plants that protects against all diseases, all insect pests, all viruses? Learn how we can use good bacteria and fungi and organic substances to fight fire with fire. Recent emerging scientific research is finding highly unexpected results when we “vaccinate” our plants causing them to increase their own defensive system. This presentation will introduce you to the emerging science of Induced Resistance.

Submitted by Dave Kinneberg

Tips for Transplanting in your Fall Garden

Sowing seeds is one thing: transplanting young seedlings is an equally tricky business with its own set of rules.

- ◆ **Handle with care:** This is the time to have a tender touch and all supplies at hand.
- ◆ **Choose your moment:** The best time to do it is on a misty or cloudy day (good luck finding a misty day in Texas) or late in the afternoon when the sun is low.
- ◆ **Make contact:** Poke a hole in loose soil and press the roots firmly in contact with the soil.
- ◆ **Water sparingly:** Seedlings need moisture, of course, but don't overdo it.
- ◆ **Be protective:** Don't allow the seedlings to be damaged by strong winds or strong light. Shield the young plants from direct sunshine for a day or so, or provide them with a shade cover (in cooler temperatures you would use a row cover to raise the temperature and speed growth, but in Texas you are trying to protect the young plants from the hot temperature)
- ◆ **Be selective:** Transplant only young seedlings. For a beautiful crop of tender lettuce, for example, sow seeds every month and transplant them as soon as they are ready (or you can just sow the seeds directly in the garden).
- ◆ **Toughen them up:** seedlings started indoors need a period of transition (about 2 weeks) before they are exposed to the outdoors. This process, known as hardening off, allows them to adjust to wind, direct sunlight, and fluctuating temperatures. On their first outings, plants need shelter and must come in for the night. Later, when they have toughened, they may stay out overnight in a sheltered spot.



The Old Farmer's Almanac Book of Garden Wisdom by Cynthia Van Hazinga



**HCMG Monthly Meeting
September 1, 2021
In person only**

Meeting Called to Order (Please silence all cell phones)

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation-Rachel Garrison

Quorum Established - Donna Nutt, Secretary

Introduction of County Extension Agent Justin Klinksiek by Angela Fiedler – Angela introduced our new Extension Agent. Justin has prior experience as an extension agent and has experience working in white tail deer genetics, animal genetics, row crop research.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurers Report Approved- moved and

seconded by Brian Strickland and Melayne Arnold

Minutes of August 4, 2021 Approved- moved and seconded by Sue Hall and Melayne Arnold

Committee Reports

Education – Donna Bellis announced that she already has 18 applications for the 2022 class. She said the limit is usually 20-25. If we have a large class, she may need more facilitators, especially for field trips. Donna announced an Education Committee meeting for September. She is still working on a few more instructors. She said the 2022 class will run from February 15-April 6 meeting Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-3:30, ending with a pot lunch on graduation day prior to the B&B sale. Rachel Garrison reminded the members that auditing classes qualifies as CEU time, but mentioned that popular speakers, like Dennis Hale (landscaping class) may have limited seating in back. Rachel also requested individuals interested in mentoring email her.

Research Desk- Anne Brown asked for volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Shannon Barker has been fielding the desk on Tuesdays but there are a lot of inquiries coming in now and not enough

volunteers on the desk.

Unfinished Business

Kendall County Ag Day needs Volunteers -

Anne Brown announced that Kendall County Extension Office is requesting volunteers for Ag Day, Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at their new show barn. They need about 5 or 6 volunteers to present a kid friendly informational activity repeating every 12 minutes from 9:00-1:30.

Volunteers should arrive by 8:30. Anne said there are 200 5th and 6th graders already signed up and there are up to 600 expected. Anne stressed the need to volunteer as Stephen Zoeller, their County Agent fielded calls for Kerr County until Justin Klinksiek was installed.

New Business

Glory Community Garden-Pam Umstead -Pam

is seeking volunteers to staff a booth at Glory's Fall Festival October 16, 2021 from 11:00-2:00. Pam said to arrive at 10:00 and suggested bringing applications for the 2022 HCMG class. She said Charlie Turtle, a leopard tortoise will be attending the event. Pam also mentioned the Music in the Park event at the Glory Garden on September 12, 2021. Admission is free.

Logo Ware Coordinator Needed - Debbie Bacon

is stepping down as Logo Wear Coordinator after four years. Anne Brown said there are two orders per year, sometimes just one. There is an official order form to bring to meetings for orders.

Appointment of Nominating Committee-

Melayne Arnold and Liz Althaus volunteered to be on the committee and were accepted. Anne Brown mentioned that Patti Schlessiger is serving as Vice President next year but the offices of President, Treasurer, and Secretary are open for nomination.

Free Irises from Linda Proffitt -Linda brought in bags of irises from her garden and shared the history of the plants brought here by her ancestors in 1846. They start out yellow or purple, gradually

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Minutes continued from page 8

transitioning to white but new divisions revert to the original colors. Linda has them naturalized on her property with little to no water needed.

CEU on VMS -Raeann Reid did a presentation online of her very thorough and detailed page of the many, frequently updated CEU opportunities. She demonstrated how easy it is to navigate this section of the VMS site.

The meeting ended with the introduction by Beth McMahon of Sydney Jones Boyer the new assistant agent in Gillespie County.

Announcements

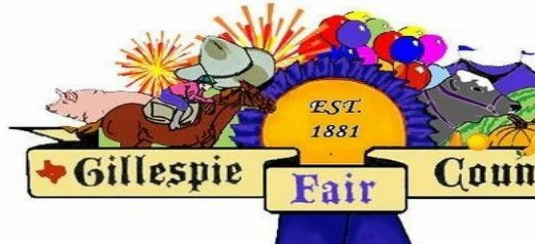
January meeting-We will meet in January, 2022 at Dieter Center- Anne said the parking is plentiful and the luncheon will be served in The Grill

Next Meeting- October 6, 2021 at 1:00PM

Adjourned

Submitted by Donna Nutt-Secretary

August 13, 2021

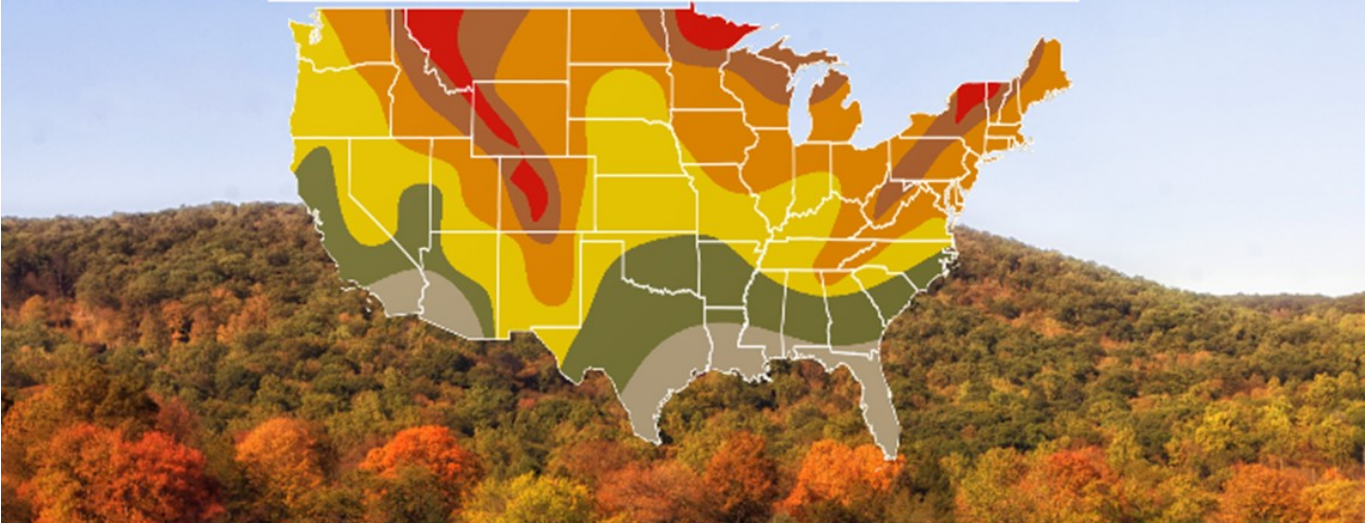


HCMGs Vegetable Winners

- Kathy Lewis- 2nd Sweet banana Peppers
- Raeann Reid- 2nd Blackeye Peas
- Chris Davis- 2nd Poblano Peppers
- Raeann Reid- 1st Serrano Peppers
- Raeann Reid- 2nd Zucchini
- Chris Davis- 3rd Cherry Tomatoes
- Chris Davis-1st Place Cherry Tomatoes
- Chris Davis-1st Place Roma Tomatoes
- Raeann Reid- 1st Place Grape Tomatoes

Pictures on page 10

FALL FOLIAGE FORECAST





GILLESPIE COUNTY FAIR VEGETABLES



Photo Credit:
Beth McMahon
CEA-Horticulture



**Hill Country Master
Gardeners 2021
Executive
Committee**

Anne Brown
President

Patti Schlessiger
Vice President

Secretary
Donna Nutt

Jackie Connelly
Treasurer

Rachel Garrison
Ex-officio Advisor

C.E.A. Advisor
Angela Fiedler

**Committees &
Project
Coordinators are
listed on our
website****Newsletter & Website**

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President's message continued

- ◆ Chris Seifert –Coming of the King Garden, The RNC 4th Grade Ed Station, and the OLH High School Garden
- ◆ Jackie Skinner –HCMG Demonstration Garden
- ◆ Christine Snyder –Herff Farms Gardens
- ◆ Pam Umstead -UGRA Eduscape Garden
- ◆ Jim Wilhite –Lipe Memorial Garden

I bet you didn't know how many projects we have going in all our counties! The coordinators above have all managed to maintain their projects during our recent Covid challenge. HCMG owes all the above a big job well done and thanks for taking on all these projects.

I'll see everyone at the meeting on October 6th, Anne

Why go native?

To sustain our local ecosystem, native plants are essential, and many non-native plants are extremely detrimental. Non-natives may seed out more easily, grow faster, and use more water – proliferating and crowding out native species until the natives become extinct.

Native plants, on the other hand, have lived here for centuries (without fertilizer or pesticides); have evolved to withstand our temperature and moisture extremes and our poor soil; and have supported the local wildlife by providing food and shelter for our native animals, birds and insects.

As they are forced to compete with non-native plants for resources, the native plants become fewer and fewer until they are crowded out or eaten to extinction.

– From the Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter and Fredericksburg Chapter:

The Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas hosts monthly programs at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville, September through May. See npsot.org/kerrville for details.

The Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT meets monthly at Presbyterian Memorial Church, 601 North Milam Ave., Fredericksburg. See npsot.org/fredericksburg for details.

Cindy Anderson is a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas (Kerrville Chapter) and the Hill Country Master Gardeners. An enthusiastic (though often frustrated) gardener, she has learned first-hand the value of native plants, and gladly shares reviews of her favorites in this quarterly seasonal column.