



Kaufman County Master Gardener Association

Topics Available from our Speakers Bureau

January 31, 2023

Does your garden club, service group or other organization need a speaker? Kaufman County Master Gardeners are available at **no cost** to speak on a variety of topics. Select a topic from the list of specific topics below. If you don't see the topic you want, check the Speakers Bureau page on our website- www.kcmga.org -to find out if we have something new since this list was produced. Call 469-376-4520, or email info@kcmga.org to make arrangements; please make your request **at least two weeks before** the presentation date.

All About Ladybugs

All about lady beetles: life cycle, history, identification, native lady beetles, use as a biological control and how to attract lady beetles.

Bed Preparation

Advantages and disadvantages of raised beds, permanent beds, mulching in vegetable gardens. Trench composting.

Beekeeping for Beginners

How to get started keeping bees and harvest honey.

Beneficial Insects

Defines beneficial insects and what they do; explores the current state of biological control; provides examples of common beneficial insects.

Bugs: Friends or Foes?

A comparison of beneficial insects and pest insects, with several examples of each, including lacewings, dragonflies, fall army worms, Mexican bean beetles and others. Two new potential pest insects to look out for are the brown marmorated stink bug and the emerald ash borer.

Choosing a Garden Site

How to select a garden site, what to try and avoid. What plants require the maximum amount of sunlight, what plants can tolerate some shade, garden orientation (north /south beds), poorly drained areas.

Composting

What is composting, Benefits of composting, Backyard composting, how to build a compost bin, composting materials (good and bad), using your compost, testing your compost.

Confessions of an Agaveholic

The popularity of agaves and their nomenclature, growth habits, and soil preparation.



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Crop Selection

What types of vegetables to grow in your garden, what do you like to eat? Cool season crops vs. warm season crops, how to select cultivars for your area.

Dirty Dozen: Terrestrial Invasive Species of the Blackland Prairie

Invasive species can threaten the survival of native species and can cause significant economic damage. Learn about the twelve least-wanted species, according to TexasInvasives.org, that are found in the Blackland Prairie. Includes photographs, habitat, growth characteristics and origin.

Drip Irrigation

How to design and select the proper drip irrigation equipment, how to connect to your house water system, how to use rain water. The different controllers, timers and emitter types available.

Edible Landscaping

Ways to incorporate fruit, vegetables, herbs and more into your landscape without having the “vegetable garden” look. Plant list provided.

Fall Vegetable Gardening

How a fall vegetable garden is different from spring and summer gardens. Plant selection and growth requirements.

Gardening for Butterflies

Discusses how to attract butterflies to your garden or yard, and provides references on butterfly identification. A list of plants suitable for our area and native butterflies is included.

Gardening Made Easier

An overview of the many tools and techniques that can make gardening easier for older adults and those with physical challenges.

Gardening Outside the Lines

When we think of vegetable gardens, most of us think of straight, tilled rows stretching across the garden. But there are a lot of variations that have worked well for centuries and others that are more modern ways to do things. Many take less labor and time than traditional row gardening. You will learn about several of these methods, including raised beds and container.

Getting Ready for Winter in the Garden

Covers common tasks to be done in fall and winter, including handling leaves, caring for perennials, preparing container plants, and preparing tools for storage.

Growing Vegetables in Containers

Plant selection, growing media, types of containers, light and location, fertilizers.

Introduction to Rain Water Harvesting

Watershed basics, simple and complex systems, how to calculate your capture volume, storage, usage, and maintenance.



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Keyhole Gardening

A discussion of the history of keyhole gardens, what one is, how it is made, and what its benefits are. Examples of keyhole gardens are shown.

Making a Rain Barrel

How to build and maintain your rain barrel. Tools required, filters, how to install a hose bib.

Planning Your Garden

Covers important things to consider in planning your garden: location, orientation, size, and timing. Discusses putting all these pieces together

Plants for Pollinators

Covers bees and other types of pollinators; what attracts pollinators to your garden and keeps them there; provides a number of resources for plant lists; and covers a few plants that are suitable for our area and native pollinator population.

Plants of the Bible

Plants were an important part of life in Biblical times. They provided many of the things needed for survival: food, fuel, medicine and building materials. Explore some of the most important plants, including trees like olive and cedar and grains like wheat and barley, and learn how they were used in daily and ceremonial life.

Rose Rosette Disease

Thorough discussion of symptoms, with illustrations. Causes and remediation.

Seed Starting

Learn how to start seeds, and get a jump on the spring growing season or grow those summer greens year-round. Growing medium, water and light requirements, easiest seeds to start.

Soil Preparation

How to prepare your soil for a garden: what compost is, how to build a compost bin, composting in the rows, proper soil ph, how to improve clay soil.

Square Foot Gardening

An overview of square foot gardening principles and methods

Texas' Native Bees

Honey bees get most of the press, but our native bees are also threatened. They are also more efficient pollinators of native plants than honeybees. Learn about our native bees, how they live, and how to help them survive.

Texas Superstar® Plants

What Texas Superstars are, where to find them, photographs