

West Texas Gardening

*"Turn the soil, plant the seeds,
welcome April"
– Anonymous*

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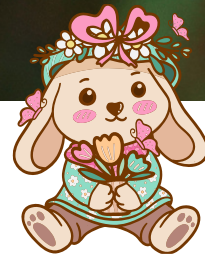
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HOWDY!



Dear Readers,

I hope your Spring is going well. Sorry, I missed the March newsletter. It was an unusual month for me.

But, here we are again! In April, a month that brings all the blooms. Beautiful flowers all around us, so take the time to stop and enjoy them! Gardens are also waking up, so what are you planting this year? Need some resources to help you decide? Well...I hope this newsletter helps...

Happy Gardening,

Sara Moran
Horticulture County Extension Agent
Ector & Midland Counties

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

GADENING RESOURCES

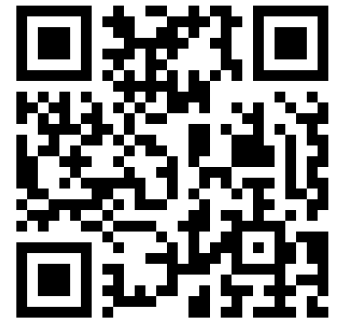
BY SARA MORAN, HORTICULTURE AGENT, ECTOR & MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Have you started your garden, or are you still planning what you will grow? Are you a beginner gardener or an experienced one? Are you new to West Texas? (If so, welcome!) Whatever your gardening skill level, at some point in your journey, you might need resources to help, encourage, or inspire you in your gardening endeavors.

Then, I have grouped a curated list of reliable gardening resources for West Texas. I hope you find it helpful.

Permian Basin Master Gardener (PBMG) volunteer program.

- Members of the Master Gardener program are committed volunteers trained by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service who motivate and educate the Permian Basin community about sound horticultural practices.
- Their website, www.westtexasgardening.org, offers gardening information in different areas, including vegetables (varieties, when to plant, and days to harvest), shade plants, trees (deciduous and evergreens), annuals, perennials (vines, shrubs, groundcovers, grasses), fruit, nut, and berry cultivars.
- Blog. The PBMG Blog is an educational gardening resource that shares practical articles, tips, and local insights specifically tailored to West Texas conditions. The blog features short, easy-to-read posts written by trained Master Gardeners covering topics such as native plants, soil health, seasonal gardening, and sustainable landscaping to help residents grow successful garden.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

- The Aggie Horticulture website will provide plenty of research-based information in major gardening areas. Fruit and nut resources, vegetable resources, ornamental production, viticulture, and Texas Superstar. You will have access to free guides from A&M specialist
- Texas Home Vegetable Gardening Guide – detailed planting, soil, watering, crop selection, and planning guide.
- Educational materials, courses, and horticulture research.



Insect, Pest, and Diseases

Visit the **Texas Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** Program from AgriLife online. The IPM program is a science-based approach to controlling pests (like insects, weeds, or diseases) that minimizes harm to people, the environment, and beneficial organisms. Instead of relying only on chemicals, IPM combines multiple strategies to manage pests effectively and long-term.

The Texas Plant Disease Diagnosis Lab is a wonderful tool that helps you properly diagnose your plant issue, especially if you suspect a pathogen is the cause of your plant's abnormal development. Visit them at <https://plantclinic.tamu.edu>



Test Your Soil

Healthy soil is the foundation of a thriving garden. Testing your garden soil helps you understand its condition, ensuring your plants grow and thrive on healthy soil.

Luckily, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has the "Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Laboratory" where you can submit your soil sample and analyze it adequately for a fee. Please visit their website (check QR Code). Look for the "Urban and Homeowner Soil Sample Information Form" which might be the most appropriate for gardeners, read it carefully, and fill it out. The form also includes the procedure for collecting your soil sample.

Seed Libraries

Seed libraries allow gardeners to borrow or take seeds for free, grow plants, and return saved seeds at the end of the season. The AgriLife Extension Office (Midland and Ector counties), with the support of Permian Basin Master Gardener volunteers, manages two seed libraries.

- Midland County: Centennial Public Library
- Ector County: Ector County Public Library

The seeds we offer are mainly vegetable, herb, flower, and fruit (e.g., watermelon, cantaloupe) seeds. Gardening guides are also available at both locations.

You do not need a library card to take a seed package. You can take up to two seed packages. We kindly ask that you write your name, the seeds you are taking, and where they will be planted (home, church, farm, etc.). This information helps us a lot to promote the impact of this project.

We always take seed donations. At each location, we have a 'donation basket' where you can leave your seeds. Label them, so we know what they are. You can also bring them to our offices (Midland: 2445 E. Hwy 80 or Odessa: 1010 E. 8th St. Suite 220 at the Ector County Annex). We will package them in small envelopes and make them available at the seed libraries.

In the last three years, we have received seed package donations from Tractor Supply Co. stores (Ector & Midland counties), The Home Depot in Midland, TX., Bonnie Plant Farm in Midland, TX, residents from Ector and Midland counties, Utopia Valley, LLC Farm in Las Cruces, NM, and our beloved Master Gardener volunteers!

The Native Agenda. A local project by Amanda Green (Master Gardener trainee) and her husband, Matt Green. They are dedicated to greening West Texas through education and conservation. Their passion is to provide the community with access to native plants, wildflower seeds, and expert guidance on water-wise landscaping. Whether you want to support local pollinators or create a drought-tolerant garden, they offer the resources and knowledge you need to succeed in our unique climate.

Visit their website: <https://thenativeagenda.com>



Classes & Events:

- **In-person classes:** Always check the Master Gardener website: www.westtexasgardening.org or our Facebook pages: Permian Basin Master Gardener, Midland County - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, or Ector County - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.



- **AgriLife Learn** from Texas A&M is a great online resource that helps you grow your knowledge through research-based publications, self-paced courses, and more. This platform has learners from 170+ countries and all 254 Texas counties.



- **Earth-Kind Landscaping** (Texas A&M) is an online program that uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment. The objective of Earth-Kind Landscaping is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a horticultural system that is effective in the real world and environmentally responsible.

- **Ready, Set, Grow!** from New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service is a free monthly webinar series that provides research-based gardening education from extension agents, horticulture specialists, and regional experts. The program shares practical gardening practices, seasonal topics, and recorded presentations to help home gardeners learn how to grow plants successfully in desert and Southwest climates. Visit their website at: <https://desertblooms.nmsu.edu/grow.html>

- **AgriLife County Agent**, of course! Look for your county extension agent here



Know Your insect

Lacewings, are beneficial garden predators that help control common plant pests such as aphids, whiteflies, mites, and thrips. The adults have delicate, lace-like wings and feed on nectar and pollen, while their larvae—often called “aphid lions”—actively hunt and consume harmful insects, making them valuable for natural pest control.

Note, that the larvae has a different ‘look’, so it is important to get familiar with the lifecycle of the insect.

Lacewings are commonly found in gardens and landscapes with flowering plants and are especially helpful in reducing the need for chemical pesticides while supporting a healthy, balanced garden ecosystem.



Plant Spotlight



LARKSPUR

Texas Betony (*Stachys coccinea*) beautiful and drought-tolerant perennial native to the southwestern United States and Mexico. member of the Lamiaceae (mint) family, due to its square stem. Bright red tubular flowers grow on a spike. It is blooming in my garden! with full sun all day long. Texas Betony is highly recommended for pollinators as it attracts hummingbirds and pollinators. Low water needs and heat tolerant. Perfect for native gardens.

Note: available at the Plant Sale on April 11, 2026 more details in the “Upcoming event” section.

Picture by Anderson, Wynn in
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website.

I might have an Answer

I'm wondering if you have any advice for a potential repot failure of my mature indoor maranta. I haven't repotted in 3 years, so this weekend I decided to replace all the soil, carefully removing what I could from the roots and repotting in fresh soil mixed with a good amount of perlite. I repotted most of my indoor plants this weekend, and this is the only one looking stressed. I have it next to a humidifier, but I'm not sure if there's anything else I can do to help it out? Do you have any suggestions?

Christine D.



I had to do a little research on this one, as I am not familiar with Maranta (*Maranta leuconeura*) growing conditions...or maybe I need to get one to learn about it (just an idea, ha!)

Maranta is native to the Brazilian forest. Knowing that information, you can get a strong hint about the type of environment to create for the plant to thrive. You grow it indoors and provide additional moisture with the humidifier. Nice!

House plants should be reported at some point in their life. Reporting a plant causes root disturbance. Roots can be damaged, breaking or becoming exposed to changes in temperature. Then, there is also a change in soil conditions (texture, nutrients, etc.). The plant has now experienced a change in its environment, and it will take time to adjust to the new conditions. This is known as transplant shock.

Common signs of transplant shock include wilting- even when the soil is moist, yellow or browning leaves, leaf drop, stunted growth, and, in severe cases, plant death. Roots are responsible for taking up water and nutrients; when they are disturbed, they cannot do so, and the plant becomes stressed. Some plants recover quickly, others might take more time, and sadly, others will not make it.

Fortunately, there are ways to minimize the effects of transplant shock. Before transplanting, water the plant well and avoid transplanting during extreme heat or cold. During the transplanting, keep as much of the root ball intact and handle the root gently. After the transplanting: water well after planting, keep the soil moist, avoid fertilizing -it can stress the roots more.

Finally, be patient, which is always the hardest part, but plants know what to do.



PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 11, 2026

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

3011 N County Rd 1160 (Todd Rd)
Midland TX 79705



More Classes & Events

ALL SALES ARE FINAL

Availability can change without further notice

www.westtexasgardening.org

Plant List*

Augusta Duelberg *Salvia farinacea* 'Augusta Duelberg'
Beeblossom Gaura *Oenothera suffulta*
Blackfoot Daisies *Melampodium leucanthum*
Blue Mistflower *Conoclinium coelestinum*
Bushy Bluestem *Andropogon glomeratus*
Chocolate Daisies *Berlandiera lyrata*
Copper Canyon Daisies *Tagetes lemmonii*
Coral Honeysuckle *Lonicera sempervirens*
Coreopsis 'Early Sunrise' *Coreopsis* 'Early Sunrise'
Crossvine *Bignonia capreolata*
Damianita *Chrysactinia mexicana*
Esperanza *Tecoma stans* 'Gold Star'
Fall Asters *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*
Flame Acanthus *Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*
Heartleaf Skullcap *Scutellaria Ovata*
Henry Duelberg *Salvia* *Salvia farinacea* 'Henry Duelberg'
Lantana horrida *Lantana horrida*

Lindheimer's Muhly *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*
Mexican Bush Sage *Salvia leucantha*
Pink Muhly *Muhlenbergia capillaris*
Prairie Verbena *Glandularia bipinnatifida*
Rock Penstemon *Penstemon baccharifolius*
Rock Rose *Pavonia lasiopetala*
Rudbeckia Maxima *Rudbeckia* 'Maxima'
Salvia Galeana Red *Salvia darcyi*
Sideoats Grama *Bouteloua curtipendula*
Skeleton Leaf Goldeneye *Viguiera stenoloba*
Snake Herb *Dyschoriste linearis*
Stonecrop *Sedum* 'Autumn Red'
Texas Betony *Stachys coccinea*
Turk's Cap *Malvaviscus arboreus drummondii*
TX Gold Columbine *Aquilegia* 'Texas Gold'
White Mistflower *Ageratina havanensis*
Winecup *Callirhoe involucrata*

*Availability can change without further notice.



SUSTAINABLE SOURCED SATURDAYS

Make Every Drop Count

Talking about being efficient with your water, gardening, livestock, and irrigation. Plus, hands-on activity: making rainwater harvesting buckets!

Saturday, April 18, 2026
Midland College

4201 N Garfield St Midland, TX 79705

Program Schedule

9:00 - 9:10 AM | Registration
9:10 - 10:30 AM | Water Harvesting Basics
10:30 - 10:45 AM | Break
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Hands on activity



\$25

Includes all materials activity!
Per person. Limited spots available!

REGISTER HERE

WORD SEARCH

l	b	g	o	r	m	u	i	p	m
a	a	s	p	r	i	n	g	h	w
a	c	c	a	l	z	d	k	e	a
t	l	x	e	e	j	l	f	h	g
n	i	y	e	w	u	t	e	s	r
a	a	j	i	v	i	p	l	v	o
r	f	c	a	a	l	n	i	o	w
a	p	t	t	i	e	n	g	e	a
m	o	d	f	s	x	u	x	s	l
n	a	g	r	i	l	i	f	e	n

AgriLife
Lacewings

Spring
Grow

IPM
Maranta

EDITORS & CONTRIBUTORS

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THANK YOU!

Joshua Maranon, for your help and patience creating this newsletter!