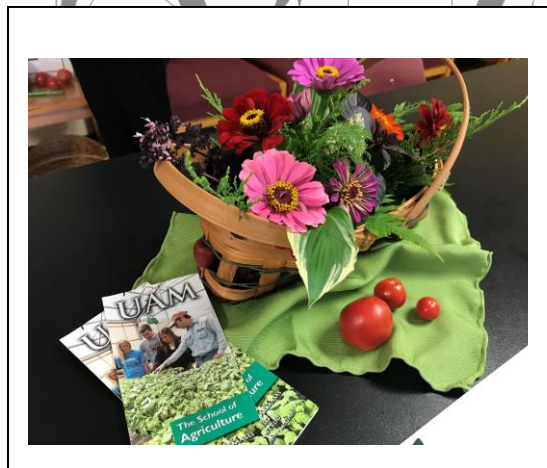


The Magnolia Chronicle

The newsletter for Pulaski County Master Gardeners



U of A

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System



Heirloom Tomatoes Program - held
June 2018 for Advanced Master Training

February 2019

Presidents Corner

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672) Colonial American poet.

February, named after the purification ritual "Februa", was an early Roman Spring cleaning festival. In Old English, February was also referred to as "mud month" or "kale or cabbage month." February frequently occurs in lists of the most commonly misspelled words in the English language and is the only month that can pass with no full moon. The Welsh call it "ymis back" which means "little month". If you, like I, were born in the month of February, you share your birthday month with the fewest number of people born any month.

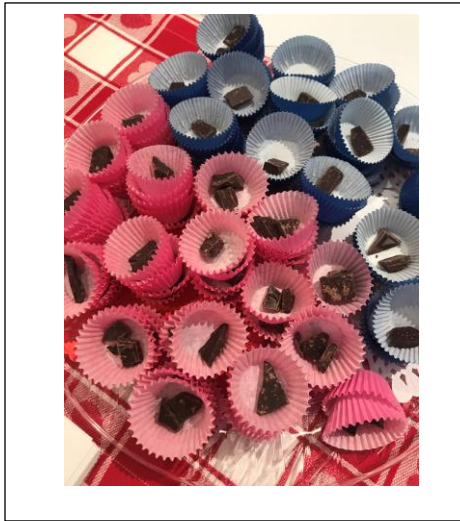
February, though inching ever closer to Spring, is also one of the snowiest months of the year. With winter's cold air firmly established, the storm track is typically pushed to the South. I recently read a book, The Snowflake Man, a biography of Wilson A. Bentley. "Snowflake" Bentley, a New England farmer born in 1865 in Jericho, VT, couldn't get enough of snowflakes. For forty years, he ran around in the snow, catching photographs on chilled slides and photographing them, seeking to capture for others, the beauty he saw in those one-of-a-kind masterpieces of ice crystals. Over his lifetime, he photographed over five thousand individual snowflakes, each different from the others, yet falling together to make a beautiful landscape!

As we Master Gardeners from all walks of life make new friends and learn and work together this year, may we all find beauty and joy in our diversity!

Suzanne Potts, PCMG President



PCMG Greenhouse Sale
April 13th (see pictures above
of coral bells and geraniums).
Lots of healthy and beautiful
plants for sale soon.



Chocolate

Master Gardeners gathered on February 8th for a Lunch and Chocolate Tasting at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History decorated festively in a Valentine's theme. After a delicious box lunch by Cupcake Factory, the group was provided much information about chocolate including the history, medicinal qualities and trade of chocolate. The origins of chocolate date back to 1450 B.C. And, did you know that each American consumes on the average 12 pounds of chocolate annually. The industry, with both respected producers and practices being watched by human rights groups, generates approximately \$100 Billion (yes Billion) in revenues per year.

Here's some Valentine trivia for chocolate lovers:

- **The only State in the U.S. which grows the cacao bean is Hawaii.
- **The largest grower is the Ivory Coast of Africa.
- **400 cacao beans are needed for each chocolate bar.

The highlight of the event was tasting the chocolates donated by Izard Chocolate of Little Rock and KYVA Chocolate of Elm Springs. Each chocolatier has a unique story. On a 31 hour plane trip home from Uganda, KYVA Chocolate was born. KYVA is the first bean to bar chocolate maker in Arkansas. Izard Chocolate, also a bean to bar company, uses Fair Trade organic ingredients to make small batch chocolates. They each provided single source chocolates from either the Dominican Republic or Tanzania. This was followed by chocolates infused with bourbon, champagne, coffee, chai tea, chipotle and sea salt. After tasting, we learned that our favorite infusion reveals traits of our personalities.

Jan Paulus and Betty Raley organized the great event. Social Chairs, Pat Luzzi and Margo Rowe, delighted the group with their program. The Volunteers were treated to aprons designed and painted by Linda Mellburg. In short, this was a great, fun Master Gardener time together (not to mention the education hours received by the participants).

Living Color! Garden Show 2019

By: Mary Russell-Evans

The dates for the 2019 Arkansas Flower & Garden Show are March 1-3 at our new “forever” home at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds again. The biggest question I got last year was “What took y’all so long?” Everyone loved the new location & setup. Lots more room for lots more everything!

As I walked around the buildings last week I noticed the immense presence of PCMGs there. Wow! They have a lot of plantings & projects there, including a couple keyhole gardens. All the beds are diverse, neatly laid out & very tidy. Be sure to look at these while you are there. You can find a lot of them nestled between the Farm & Ranch Building and the Arts & Crafts Building.

For any information you don’t see here, be sure to check out the website. www.argardenshow.org

Hours are: Friday 9:00-5:00, Saturday 9:00-5:00, Sunday 10:00-3:00. Tickets \$10 for adults, children under 12 are free, 3-day passes are \$15. Children’s activities are on Sunday.

Tickets, passes & gates: The only gate selling tickets will be the main gate on the Roosevelt Road (north) side. The only folks to have name badges now are speakers & vendors. You cannot get through the gates without either a name badge or ticket. You **MUST** go to the main gate if you do not have tickets for everyone in your car! Please do not attempt another gate line without them..... This causes huge backups & delays. Stay with the main gate if at all possible. Volunteer tickets (for PUCO MGs only) may be picked up at the Pulaski County Extension office Feb 18-28.

Volunteer check in & lounge will be in Barton Coliseum inside the east entrance (shuttle drop off site.) There will be drive up package holding in Barton Coliseum (big south door) AND Hall of Industry (north loading dock.) The Silent Auction will be Saturday from 9:00-2:00 in Barton Coliseum. To donate to the silent auction contact Belva Cook at belvacook@ft.NewYorkLife.com Expect an expanded menu & better food this year in Barton Coliseum & the Blue Ribbon Diner.

FIVE acres of FREE parking! No excuses! **SHUTTLES** pick up at 3 pink tents in the parking lot. All four buildings have shuttle drops. All buildings have handicapped access & handicap parking is available.

Proceeds from the AF&GS go to sponsor horticultural scholarships & the Greening of Arkansas Grants. In just the last ten years, the show has given \$60,000 in scholarships & over \$95,000 to Greening of Arkansas grants. To see if your public beautification garden project might qualify for these grants, check out the criteria on the website.

Your horticulture entries are welcome & needed for the Federation of Garden Clubs’ Horticulture exhibits in the Arts & Crafts Building. These serve an educational purpose, to expose the public about horticulture - up close- some possibly for the first time. They provide horticultural inspiration & aspiration. And provide everyone the opportunity to see & enjoy prize winning specimens. Houseplants, terrariums, African violets, shrub cuttings, daffodils & other bulbs, plus many more categories. Last year, in our new home, the Federation put together a beautiful show!

You can listen to the **How To speakers** while strolling the exhibits. For more information contact Jean Moser at 658-6024 or olyardner@aol.com Maybe YOU can take home the blue ribbon...

Building Activities-

Hall of Industry- Ozark Folk Center State Park, Lopez Landscape, Central Arkansas Garden Railway Society's train garden, booths

Barton Coliseum- booths, gardens, food, "Watch a Pro at Work"

Arts & Crafts Building- Gardening How To Stage & Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs

Farm & Ranch Building- Friday & Saturday garden seminars/ Sunday children's activities

>>>> Speaker Schedules & tips: Integrated Events Schedule <<<<

For a [printable](#) blended events schedule go to the website, click on "Show Info," then click on "2019 Show Events Schedule." <https://argardenshow.org/2016/11/13/show-information/> ...Best way to roll- so you don't miss anything.

A new twist on the live garden build is "**Watch a Pro at Work**" featuring **Joe Barnett** of **Little Rock Land Design**. **Janet Carson** will be emceeing this event starting at 10:00 am on Friday.

Speakers/Seminars: Farm & Ranch Building

Friday March 1

10:00 **Grafting Tomatoes: The Why's & How To's** John Gavin, Cooperative Extension Service, Bradley County

11:15 **Native Trees in the Landscape: Selection, Care & Maintenance** Carol Guffey, U of A Cooperative Extension Service, Extension Forester

12:30- **Award Presentations- Greening of Arkansas Grants & Scholarships**

1:00 **Farming in the Rock:** Chris Hiryak, Little Rock Urban Farming

2:15 **Ten Steps to Great Roses in Arkansas** John Baker, Consulting Rosarian- American Rose Society

Saturday March 2

10:00- **Pollinators in the Garden** Jon Zawislak, U of A Cooperative Extension Service, Agriculture Instructor

Saturday, March 2, cont.

11:15 **An Introduction to Hydroponics** Nolen Buffalo, The Water Buffalo (Gardening shop in LR)

12:30 **Garden Design made Easy** Bob Byers, Fort Worth Botanical Garden

1:45 **Shade Loving Perennials** Janet Carson, Retired Extension Horticulturist

Gardening How To Stage- Arts & Crafts Building

Foraging has become quite the topic! Believe it or not, people are doing it even in the big cities like New York's Central Park & there are groups of people doing it. Rose Marie Nuffer is part of such a group here in Central Arkansas. Holly Anderson (also a PCMG) & Leslie Fowler have a wonderful program on Monarchs, migration, preservation, etc.

Tina Marie Wilcox & Kathleen Connole return from the Ozark Folk Center as well as special guest Susan Belsinger from Maryland. She is a staple at the Ozark Folk Center's herbal events & is a well know culinary herbalist as well as national author. You can visit her at the Ozark Folk Center's garden Saturday & Sunday. Ever wonder what to do with all your cracked or busted clay pots? Kathleen has the answers!

Gerald Klingaman & Bob Byers are both old favorites returning to our show- Gerald Klingaman (retired U of A Fayetteville- ornamentals) is director of the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks & Bob Byers (former director of Garvan Woodland Gardens) is director of the Fort Worth Botanical Garden. Chris Olsen of Botanica Gardens needs no introduction. All three are veterans of the How To stage.

By popular demand, Kathy Rodocker, (Stems With Style in Benton,) is bringing her fairy house exhibit for an encore! The fairies will be on display in the Federation of Garden Clubs exhibits in the Arts & Crafts Building for the entire show! She will do a program about them on the How To Stage on Sunday afternoon. Four florists will be working with the theme. Vegetables on Friday morning. 7 Master Gardener speakers, birds & bees, tree talks, pollinators, selected plant talks, propagation & soil, herbalists, ornamental borders, perennials & the ever popular train garden guy! Glad to have the Central AR Bonsai Society back! See you at the How To!

How To 2019

Friday, March 1

10:00 **Japanese Maples 101** Scott Smith, River Valley Horticultural Products

10:30 **Growing Trees from the Ground Up** Jeremy Bemis, Bemis Tree Farm

11:00 **A Glimpse into the Garden Railway Hobby** Richard Davis, Central Arkansas Garden Railway Society

11:30 **Gleaning & Hunger Relief Gardens** Brandon Chapman, Food Sourcing & Logistics Coordinator, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

12:00 **Beyond the Tomato Cage: 3 Tomato Trellis Options for a Better Harvest** Jill McSheehy, Garden writer & podcaster at journeywithjill.net

Friday, March 1, cont.

- 12:30 **Cracked Pot Gardens** Kathleen Connole, Ozark Folk Center State Park
- 1:00 **Make Your Own Air Plant- Shell Mobile** Michael Seal, The funny Farm
- 1:30 **A Crash Course in Bonsai** Dustin Lane, Central Arkansas Bonsai Society
- 2:00 **Floral in Living Color: Design for Spring in Your Home** Justin Hoadley & Alex Hudson- Tanarah Luxe Floral & Event Styling
- 2:30 **Great Azaleas Start with Proper Planting Techniques** Ronnie Palmer, Azalea Society of America
- 3:00 **Teas from Camellias? History & How To** Paige Mizell, Mizell's Camellia Hill Nursery
- 3:30 **Growing & Maintaining Gardens the Old Fashioned Way** Mike Nocks, White Harvest Seed Co
- 4:00 **Attracting Winged Living Color!** Jim Allen, Wild Birds Unlimited (LR)

Saturday, March 2

- 10:00 **Beautiful Beds & Borders ARE Possible with Classical Concrete Alternatives** Fred Stewart, Classical Curbs
- 10:30 **Three Easy Recipes for Our Favorite Herb: Rosemary** Debbie Tripp, Rosemary Hill Herb Farm
- 11:00 **Agastache: Herb of the Year™ 2019: Anise Hyssop, Hummingbird Mints & More** Susan Belsinger, herbalist, author, educator
- 11:30 **The Monarch Migration** Holly Anderson & Leslie Fowler, Arkansas Monarch Conservation Partnership
- 12:00 **Foraging Weeds for Abundant Health!** Rose Marie Nuffer, Central Arkansas Herbalism
- 12:30 **Color Is Where You Find It** Rand Retzloff, Grand Designs
- 1:00 **A Stylish Garden by Design** Chris Olsen, Botanica Gardens
- 1:30 **KISS Rules of Gardening** Gerald Klingaman, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks
- 2:00 **African Violets: Beyond the Basics** Betty Ferguson, Central Arkansas African Violet Society
- 2:30 **Repotting Phalaenopsis Orchids** Yvonne Becker, Arkansas Orchid Society
- 3:00 **Designing a Great Container Garden** Bob Byers, Fort Worth Botanic Garden
- 3:30 **Color is at the Heart of all Design!** Scott Brents, Fairy Tale Florals
- 4:00 **Beekeeping: Yesterday, Today & the Future** Peter Stuckey & Mark Guenther, Central Arkansas Beekeepers Association

Sunday March 3

- 10:30 **Basic Tips for Maximum Production of Muscadines** Al Hall, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 11:00 **Local Resources for Hobby Poultry Operations** Dustin Clark, U of A Cooperative Extension Poultry Health Veterinarian
- 11:30 **Better Soil, Better Plants** Vic Ford, Director Agricultural & Natural Resources, U of A Cooperative Extension Service
- 12:00 **Increase Your Plant Collection with Successful Cuttings** Sharon Mayes, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 12:30 **Gardening on a Shoestring** Susan Rose, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 1:00 **Grow Your Own Herbs** Tina Marie Wilcox, Ozark Folk Center State Park & Susan Belsinger, herbalist, author, educator
- 1:30 **Using the Color Wheel for Eye Popping Color Combinations** Jim Watkins, Frances Flower Shop
- 2:00 **Seven Colorful Birds You Can See in Arkansas** Cindy Franklin, Pulaski County Master Gardener & Audubon Society of Central Arkansas
- 2:30 **Pixies: Gifts of the Earth** Kathy Rodocker. AIFD, CFD, AMF, Stems With Style (Benton)



2019 Show Dates
March 1-3, 2019
Mark your calendar!

Top 10 Heart Healthy Vegetables to Grow

submitted by Debra Redding

According to the American Heart Association, about 80 million adults in the United States have at least one form of heart disease. To reduce your risk of developing heart disease, make sure your diet contains heart healthy foods. Where should you start? How about right in your own backyard!

When you grow your own vegetables, not only do you get the convenience of having the fixings for a healthy dinner right outside your door, but your vegetables contain more nutrients than store bought ones. Believe it or not, vegetables start losing nutrients as soon as they are harvested, and the quality of the vegetables diminish as sugars are turned into starches. For the tastiest veggies with the best nutrition, try growing some of the following heart healthy veggies in your own garden. The best part about these nutritious veggies is that they can also be grown in containers as well:

Rosemary is an herb that is rich in the antioxidant carnosic acid, which may help reduce weight gain and improve cholesterol levels. Rosemary grows best in six hours of direct sunlight each day.

Avocados are full of vitamins E, B6 and carotenoids, which are high in vitamin A. Avocados help reduce the risk of cancer, heart disease, and eye degeneration. The easiest way to grow avocados is to purchase a dwarf avocado plant. Ripe fruits can be left hanging on the tree for a few weeks, but any longer they will begin to lose their flavor and texture.

Lemons are packed with vitamin C and antioxidants, which reduce the risk of heart disease and inflammation. Most lemons will ripen in six to nine months.

Carrots are a great source of vitamins and minerals, including thiamin, niacin, folate, manganese, potassium, and vitamins B6, A, C, and K. They also supply carotenoids, which are excellent for the eyes. Carrots are ready to be picked when they grow about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch across the top, just below the green stem.

Tomatoes contain lycopene, which has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties that may prevent coronary heart disease. For a continuous supply of tomatoes, start one or two new plants from seed every two weeks. When plants bloom, tap the main stem and larger side branches with your finger to encourage pollination.

Garlic is a cancer-fighting superfood that has been linked to improvements in high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, and certain types of cancer. With the peel on, break a garlic bulb into individual cloves. Push each individual clove about an inch into the soil, pointy end up. Plant about 12 cloves close together. Green shoots usually appear in about a week.

Cilantro contains high levels of carotenoids, which are a good source of vitamin A that helps protect against heart disease, stroke, and cancer. Cover the container with plastic wrap. After a few days, remove the plastic wrap once the seedlings have germinated and are pushing against the plastic.

Beets are high in iron, potassium, vitamin C, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and vitamins A and B6. Beet roots are at their best when they are harvested small, between one and two inches across. At this size, they are sweet and tender. Larger beets tend to be kind of woody and less flavorful.

Spinach is a fast-growing crop, taking just 40 days to mature. Spinach is also a cool-season crop which needs a fertile loamy soil to produce the best results. Spinach is high in folate, iron, vitamins A, B, and C, potassium, and calcium.

Red bell peppers are high in potassium, riboflavin, and vitamins A, B6, and C. Believe it or not, one cup of red bell pepper packs an amazing 317 percent of the recommended daily allowance of vitamin C and 93 percent of the recommended vitamin A.

Heirloom Tomatoes

By Lisa LaGrone & Jeffrey McKinley

We couldn't believe how much one learns at an Advanced Master Training Program---and this time it was Heirloom Tomatoes. In June, 2018, Monticello was the sight of this program organized by County 76 and the Drew County Master Gardeners. The University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) through the School of Agriculture hosted the event and along with the Extension Service took us back to school with such a great faculty. Attendees included novices like us and growers who sell Heirloom Tomatoes commercially.

Over two days, topics included the history of Heirloom Tomatoes in southeast Arkansas as well as planting and growing habits, by John Gavin, grafting tomatoes by Dr. Paul Francis, and diseases thereof by Dr. Terry Spurlock. Our hands-on sessions led by Dr. Francis found us seed saving. Arriving as patio tomato gardeners, we left feeling like Heirloom Tomato experts.

The heritage of Heirloom Tomatoes in southeast Arkansas begins in 1923. Based on Extension Service records, the tomato industry of the 1920's thrived in Bradley County. During its heyday, 1,500 growers in a 5-county area produced 3,700 acres of Pink Tomatoes. Originally, the primary plants were Pink Tomatoes hence the origin of the Pink Tomato Festival. Auctions (cash only) were held in Hermitage, Warren and Monticello with Hermitage crowned "The Tomato Capital of the World. By the 1950's, five – six counties in the area had commercial Tomato farms.

In 1985, production shifted from Pink Indeterminates to Red Determinate Varieties as the Red were more disease resistant and better shippers. Innovation which improved the industry at that time included hot house methods and drip irrigation. Containers were originally wire baskets or crates with wire. The switch to standardized 20-pound box made tomatoes shippable.

Market pressure coupled with a major infestation of Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus shrunk the industry. Presently, approximately 1000 acres are cultivated in 3 counties. UAM supports these growers with research and product development.

"An interaction of the plant's genetics with the environment is the key to tomato flavor" says University of Florida tomato breeder Dr. Jay Scott. Whether determinate (a plant with no leader stem and thus tops out with the cluster of flowers) or indeterminate (continues to set leaves and flowers and thus requires pruning), variety determines the size and type of fruit, color, disease resistance and especially flavor. The flavor of an Heirloom Tomato arises from the comparative levels of acid and sugar and the size of fruit, e.g. cherry and grape are sweeter and color. But then, then there is the mystery of Mother Nature adds her charms. Now that spring is near, these tips may assist you in buying your plants:

- *Select healthy disease free plants.
- *Stems should be straight and the diameter of a pencil.
- *6 – 8 inches is the best height.
- *Compare leaves to assure all plants in a tray are the same variety.

And, remember don't burn your tender roots by over application of fertilizer high in phosphorous. Our hands-on experiences in the green house were to seed and graft heirloom tomatoes. Why seed? Significant time was devoted to the discussion of the original source and characteristics of numerous varieties. For e.g. The Arkansas Traveler's origin is the Ozark Mountains and consistently rates high in taste tests. Compare the Caspian Pink which originated in the 1800's in Russia's Black Sea Region

and is preferred for slicing, cooking and canning. So, once you have selected your preferred variety, seeding maintains the lineage. In the suggested seven step process, seeds are extracted, fermented and stored from ripe fruit.

And next, we grafted. Why graft? Substitution of a good root disease resistant (rootstock) onto a desirable variety of fruit with a weak root disease resistance (the scion) creates a better plant. With the slice of a razor and grafting clips, we aligned the rootstock and the scion of plants to create 6 healthy seedlings. These were transported home in a "healing chamber - a plastic grocery bag in which the plants had been misted. Both seeding and grafting were unexpected fun with the group. Amazingly, our grafted plants gave us plants to share.

After the excellent and thorough program by Dr. Spurlock on disease management, our heads were spinning with nematodes, bacterial wilt, Pythium and blossom end rot. Tip: the best action in face of disease is to call the Extension Service or the nice folks at UAM.

The hospitality extended was extraordinary. Welcomes by the Mayor of Monticello David Anderson and State Representative LeAnne Burch started the day. The Drew County Master Gardeners prepared lunch in which every dish, including dessert, included tomatoes. One of our favorites was the Stuffed Cherry Tomatoes - recipe attached.

Our evening was "Tomatoes at the Trotter House". Unfortunately, rain drove us inside from the lawn of this lovely antebellum home. Chef Thomas Bedard prepared a meal in which each course featured a locally grown heirloom tomato. Much to our delight, Jeffrey won the grand door prize of a box of 20 Cherokee Purple Tomatoes. Delicious!!

The title "Advanced Master Gardener Training" made us hesitant whether we should attend. No more!! Learning about Heirloom Tomatoes, visiting Monticello, activities and great food made this a fun and memorable experience.

Happy Tomato Gardening!!

Stuffed Cherry Tomatoes

20 cherry tomatoes

12 slices hardwood bacon, fried and crumbled

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

1 Tbsp. chives, chopped

1 tsp. garlic salt

1/8 tsp. pepper

Cut tops off tomatoes and scoop out bit of the pulp. Slice a sliver off each tomato bottom so they will stand on a plate.

Combine all the other ingredients and stuff the tomatoes.

FEBRUARY CHECKLIST

By Carol Randle

TILLER TIME

Put out asparagus crowns and strawberry plants as soon as the soil is workable. Outdoors, sow broccoli, cabbage, onion sets, English peas and seed potatoes. Place orders for seeds early to ensure availability.

GET RID OF BUGS

Use insecticidal soap to control aphids on cool season annuals and vegetable plants. For borers, mites aphids, or scale, apply dormant oil spray such as "Sun Oil" to trees and shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous, Roses and the perennial border. The most effective spray of the year is before leaf buds start emerging. Check the label for optimum temperature conditions. (Usually on a calm day when the temperature is expected to be above 40 degrees for three days and no rain is expected for 24 hours.) Spraying plants before leaf buds open also avoids burning them. Note: Do not use oil spray on sugar or Japanese maple, walnut, beech or magnolia trees.

BIRD HELP

Provide fresh water near the birds' shelter. To attract a variety of birds, feed them cornmeal mixed with peanut butter, cracked corn, doughnuts, chopped fruits, suet, or sunflower seeds. Or plant barberry, beautyberry, coralberry, cottoneaster, dogwood, hawthorn, holly, mahonia, possum haw and viburnum which all provide fruits and berries in a February landscape.

DOGWOODS

February is the best time to plant dogwoods. Pick an elevated site with soil on the acid side. Plant ball and burlap trees and shrubs and bare-root plant material that are still dormant. Soak the roots in water overnight before planting. If you cannot plant right away, cover the roots with moist soil or compost and store in shady location. For new planting sites, test soil to determine the proper amendments. For existing sites, amend the entire area with mulch, compost, etc.

ROSE TIME

Place orders for bare root roses. After the 15th of February is the best time to plant roses. Water in roses with "Superthrive" or other root stimulator. Top dress roses with cottonseed and bone meal and cover with a layer of compost or rotted manure. Dehydrated manure will limit nutgrass and weed seeds. Mid-February, prune roses (hybrid teas 8" to 18") to maintain their size and vigor. Only prune ever-blooming climbers to invigorate older plants or to remove weak canes, not annually.

LAWNS

Apply lime to lawns if not done in December or January. Fertilize trees with a high nitrogen fertilizer if not done in January. Apply pre-emergence herbicides on established lawns and shrub beds to control weeds. Kill spurweed and other winter weeds now, before they have time to set seeds. Mow or shear to 4-6 inches winter-creeper euonymus, Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy, mondo grass, monkey grass, pachysandra, pampas grass, crown vetch and vinca minor. Shear to 6-8 inches santolina, lavender cotton, and junipers. Apply pre-emergence herbicides in ground covers.

OUTDOORS

Outdoors, sow candytuft, cornflowers, larkspur and phlox. In a cold frame, plant annual and perennial salvias, chrysanthemums, feverfew, lupine, nicotiana, scabiosa, snapdragon and verbena. Indoors at 65 to 75 degrees, 6 inches under artificial light, sow annual flowers and vegetables. Keep the light on for 10-12 hours a day and keep the soil moist. It takes six to eight weeks to grow a viable transplant. Plant broad-leaved evergreens, such as magnolias and hollies. All newly planted or transplanted material should be watered in with a root stimulator.

SHOOTS

Prune back by one-third to one-half tropical bloomers that are over-wintering indoors. Apply a slow release fertilizer to annuals and over-wintering tropical plants at the rate recommended on the label. Prune undesirable limbs and tip terminals on fruit trees and grapevines and thin out crowded shoots. Leave some branches of fruit and berry trees for small animals to eat this winter. Remove older canes of blueberry plants. Cut back lateral branches of blackberries to one foot.

SHRUBS

PLEASE DO NOT COMMIT CRAPE MYRTLE MURDER!

Cut back dwarf crape myrtles to within six inches of the ground. Only prune back larger crape myrtle shrubs if needed to maintain size, or to remove suckers. Thin tree forms of crape myrtles every 3-5 years. **ANNUAL PRUNING OF THIS TREE DESTROYS ITS NATURAL APPEARANCE AND IS NOT NEEDED.**

Remove largest third of buddleia, hydrangea, nandina and spirea canes. Remove dead wood and branches that turn in or overlap in the center of broadleaf evergreens. Wherever the plant is cut it will thicken, so prune above a twig growing outward not above a leaf bud. **DO NOT PRUNE FORSYTHIA OR FLOWERING QUINCE UNTIL AFTER BLOOM.** Plant hardwood cuttings of shrubs (8" with at least two buds underground) in a cold frame.

FEBRUARY BLOOMS

Flowering almond, anise Florida, arum, bridal veil, camellia, chionodoxa, crocus, daffodil, dogwood, forsythia, helleborus, hyacinth, iris (stylosas and reticulatas), Carolina jasmine, kerria, lorobetulum, Oriental magnolia, muscari, pansies, phlox, primrose, pussy willow, quince, redbud, scilla sibirica, snowdrops, spirea thunbergi, viola and violets are in bloom this month.



Special Note: Thanks for your support of our Magnolia Chronicle. If you have items of interest to all our PCMG please forward for publication. Jeffrey's article on the June 2018 Heirloom Tomato Program was wonderful! If you have attended a "learning opportunity" or visited a terrific garden this year – please submit pictures and information for publication. We would also like to profile more MG projects during the upcoming year. If you have items to sale or trade – please send as well. Please send to: daffodilsrose555@gmail.com

HAPPY GARDENING!!

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February 2019