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## JANUARY 13, 2017

Dear Friends,

Here is the 188th issue of our weekly gardening newsletter for Houston, the Gulf Coast and beyond. We really appreciate all of our readers hanging in there with us, sharing stories and inspiring us in so many ways.

Thanks so much!

This newsletter is a project of The Lazy Gardener, Brenda Beust Smith, John Ferguson and Mark Bowen (John and Mark are with Nature's Way Resources). We also have a great supporting cast of contributing writers and technical specialists who will chime in and tweak away regularly. We would love to keep receiving your input on this newsletter . . . comments . . . suggestions . . . questions. . . E mail your thoughts to: [lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com). Thanks so much for your interest.

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Enjoy!

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# FAHRENHEIT ROLLER COASTER . . . GROWING MICROGREENS . . . HOWL AT WOLF MOON!

*Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get.*

*-- Mark Twain*

## By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

As I type this, I'm looking at some pretty pitiful dead black firespike stalks. Normally these do die back over winter but usually not this quickly.

So, like many of you, I'm thinking: "Boy, I sure would like to get rid of these ugly things!" And "... wonder if they'll come back out next spring?"

Unfortunately, there's no way to know, until spring, whether or not a plant is dead-dead, as opposed to winter dormant (ie., dead on top, but roots still alive & healthy). Remember, dormancy is just the plant's way of protecting itself, reducing it's weakest parts (top growth) to preserve the strongest parts (roots), until the weather threat has passed.

Whether or not a particular plant survives depends on many things, not the least of which is whether or not its roots are genetically programmed to withstand the intensity of cold we will get this winter.

As pointed out recently, the danger in cutting off black dead stalks is that you might hit live growth. Pruning live growth triggers new growth. Many plants that, if allowed to die back naturally and retain the dead growth (the way Nature does), will easily survive our winters will die if you trigger that new growth mechanism.

As last week has shown, we're on our usual thermometer roller coaster. Trouble is, temperatures in the 70s -- or worse yet, 80s! -- might help trigger new growth.

So, what to do? Some folks like to gamble. If you do cut back deadwood, try to stop well above the area where green still exists. That deadwood is a protection for the live wood.

Whether you cut back or not, pile on mulch so the resulting bed at least looks "planned." Falling leaves (like those bagged by neighbors and set out for garbage pickup) work beautifully and, as they break down, will replenish the organic matter in your soil. And they make your garden look "intended" rather than "untended" -- as Chris LaChance likes to say.



*L to r, thryallis, paperwhite narcissus, snowdrops, 'Martha Gonzalez' antique rose, 'Rosedown' gardenia. Only the 'Rosedown' is a picture from my yard. But wanted to show you both closeup and how all these plants grow.*

I am totally awed that -- in this yard where NOTHING is protected or covered -- not only is my thryallis still green, but until mid-this-past-week, the flowers were still bright yellow! They've gone now, but the shrub

looks great.

Also really green and pretty with healthy looking flower buds are snowdrops, 'Martha Gonzales' antique rose (and other roses) and my precious 'Rosedown' gardenia. The paperwhite narcissus are growing like crazy, but don't see any buds yet.

Of course, this was only our first winter wallop. Sure there are more to come!

Personally, I don't panic over dead stalks. They're great for wildlife in winter. If a plant doesn't come back in spring, then obviously God didn't intend for it to be pronounced a success in my Lazy Gardener's Laboratory.

The point of this is that if you don't want a totally dead yard, if TOO much died back already, and you're unhappy about this, rethink your plant choices when replacing.

Keep an eye on neighbors' yards. See what died, and what didn't. But do this throughout winter. Lots of cold ahead! In spring I'll be asking for reports on what survived and what didn't.

\* \* \*

For those of you who do protect (I do realize I'm totally in the minority), I loved the way Trish Smith protects her prize plumeria on Bolivar Peninsula (where these are less likely to die back than, say, anywhere north of downtown Houston). Although it's usually warmer on the coast than in Houston proper, cold winds off the Gulf can be just as hard on plants. Despite her clever coverings below, their low of 31 did turn the leaves brown. To be expected. But stalks look good and strong. Plumeria stalks will tell you when they're unhappy!



*Trish's plumeria is too big to move inside (altho they can be cut back, put roots & all in the garage and cuttings rooted next spring). Her last year wrappings worked well, so did same again this year. "I start out with pipe insulation. When I run out of that I use foam egg crate type mattress pads. This year I added plastic newspaper bags and grocery bags on branch ends. Last year didn't cover ends. I mulch, then put newspaper weighted with rocks over mulch." Spring will tell!*

\* \* \*

Gardening should be fun and that goes for garden writing too! One of the real delights I experience with this column is when I run across a horticulture term that only sounds vaguely familiar. Happened when I received this event notice from Mercer:

**WED., FEB. 8: MICROGREENS by JACOB MARTIN, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, Humble. Free**

Exactly what -- I immediately asked Mercer Program Coordinator Melodie Hill -- are microgreens?

Microgreens, she explained, basically are tiny seedlings of certain plants that can have four to six times more nutrients than mature leaves of the same plant. They are generally quick easy to grow plants that people will harvest for their culinary uses.

Ah, HA! Spotlight article! And that's exactly what Jacob has done for us below.

This is such an up & coming gardening trend, when Jacob's not wearing his Mercer Greenhouse Manager hat, he still has his hand in soil as owner of Old School Produce. This specialty company focuses on not

only growing hard-to-find plants and produce for the Houston area, but on contract growing for those of us who would rather use than produce microgreens, sprouts, herbs & vegetables.

\* \* \*



**WOLF MOON SIGNALS HARVEST TIME:**

*Speaking of greens, go outside tonite and feast on the huge gorgeous Wolf Moon. Usually plant legends that come down from ancients reflect colder climes. But our Wolf Moon still signals the presence of certain native pines and garlicky-scented wild onions that (back then) were used to cure respiratory problems. Don't use anything without deep research, as varieties might be different now. But it's fun to think about our ancient connection while staring at this fabulous moon.*

Every full moon, our treasured friend Doris Robinson & I used to call each other and howl loudly instead of saying hello. It's good for the soul!

\* \* \*

**SUBMITTING EVENTS TO THE LG&F CALENDAR BELOW? PLEASE READ!**  
**See calendar for OUR CARVED-IN-STONE format. COPY EXACTLY!**  
**Events submitted in this EXACT format will be copied & pasted in right away.**  
**Any necessary re-typing/reformatting may take a couple of weeks**

\* \* \*

**Always check the LG&F Newsletter\* Calendar to make sure your submitted event is listed!**  
**If not, let me know! Send to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)**

**\*Brenda's column in the free, emailed LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER is based on her 45+ years as the Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener.**

\* \* \*



**Jacob Martin with micro greens**

## **GROWING MICROGREENS**

**BY JACOB MARTIN**  
**Greenhouse Manager at Mercer Botanic Garden**  
**Owner, Old School Produce**  
[oldschoolproduce.com](http://oldschoolproduce.com)

Grow flavor filled, nutrition packed produce at home for exciting, new meal options. Microgreens and sprouts have been around a while, but are just recently becoming popular for the home gardener. People often think of them as difficult, but they are actually quite easy to grow.

The first question people commonly ask is "what is the difference between sprouts and microgreens?" The simple difference is the time of harvest.

- **SPROUT:** Typically, just the germinated seed, mainly cotyledons, usually harvested in 3-7 days.
- **MICROGREEN:** Young, leafy greens or herbs, less than a month old, putting on their first true leaf.

For being such a young plant, some really add a big boost of flavor. If skeptical, just try a pinch of micro-arugula or micro-cilantro. These little vegetables and herbs are a more concentrated form of the full plant, so even the tiniest piece can amp up a dish.

You don't need a special greenhouse or hydroponic system to grow these little plants. A protected part-sun area or patio works just fine.

Any two-inch deep, well-draining tray works fine, but 72-cell flats are best for growing microgreens. These trays provide enough depth for the root system to take hold and are the best for minimalizing seed waste, since only five to seven seeds are sown per cell instead of broadcasting through a large, open tray.

The microgreens can be thinned and there will still be plenty of seedlings for the garden. Growing microgreens at home means there will always be some flavor-punch ready to harvest and add to meals.

Of all the different microgreens to choose from, there are some that should definitely be tried, such as micro-cilantro, red amaranth, celery, carrot tops, oriental mustards, bull's blood beets and watercress.

Some sprouts to add to that delicious list are sunflower, radish, and nasturtium sprouts. Next time a plate comes out with these flavorful, little wonders, be sure to give them a taste and find your new favorite.

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Contact Jacob Martin at [oldschoolproduce.com](http://oldschoolproduce.com) or meet him in person at:

- **WED., FEB. 8: MICROGREENS**, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.
- **WED., MARCH 15: HERBAL MICROGREENS FOR MACRO-TASTE AND MACRO-NUTRITION**, 6:30-9pm, Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Houston. Free. Herb Society of America/South Texas Unit event. [herbsociet-stu.org](http://herbsociet-stu.org).

## JOHN'S CORNER

### **MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do Part 9**

16) Sulfur (S) - Found in igneous rocks at 260 ppm, shale at 2,400 ppm, sandstone at 240 ppm, limestone at 1,200 ppm, fresh water at 3.7 ppm, sea water at 885 ppm, and soil at 700 ppm, marine plants at 12,000 ppm, land plants at 3,400 ppm, marine animals 5,000-19,000 ppm, land animals at 5,000 ppm.

Sulfur is one of the few elements that is found in pure form in nature and has a yellowish color. It is often found in association with salt domes that create many of our oil reservoirs. Sulfur occurs in several forms, however, in nature sulfur is most commonly found and used as the compound sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$ ).

The mineral pyrite or iron sulfide ( $\text{FeS}_2$ ) is known as fool's gold, manganese sulfate ( $\text{MnSO}_4$ ) is used as a fertilizer and as a supplement in animal feed, gypsum or calcium sulfate ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) is often used to release excess sodium in clay soils and used in many fertilizer formulations, iron sulfate ( $\text{FeSO}_4$ ) is sometimes used in gardening. When in college I remember Lake Nacogdoches being constructed. As the construction crews built the dam, they excavated several hillsides exposing the buried layers. In one of them were beautiful large (3-5" long) clear crystals of a mineral known as selenite which is calcium sulfate with two water molecules attached.

Sulfur is a basic ingredient of gunpowder, hydrogen sulfide ( $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ) smells like rotten eggs and is dangerous at high concentrations; it is a common ingredient in smog from burning diesel fuel or coal. Sulfur is used in car batteries in the form of sulfuric acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ). Many of the scents we consider odorous contain sulfur.

Sulfur is found in many enzymes and vitamins, it is a main component of keratin, which composes our hair and nails or feathers. Sulfur is an important structural element used in most proteins and many amino acids. Sulfur is a component of vitamins, coenzymes, thiamin, biotin, lipoic acid and participates in many enzymatic reactions.

Deficiency of sulfur results in degenerative types of arthritis involving cartilage, ligaments, tendons, Systemic Lupus, Sickle cell anemia and various collagen disorders. Sulfur helps detoxify the body, increase blood circulation, reduces muscle cramps and back pain, helps remove inflammation, and helps the body have more energy that is useful.

Sulfites, sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ) and sulfites ( $\text{SO}_3^{-2}$ ) are a common preservatives and antimicrobial agents added to foods and medicines (think wine) as they kill microbes. Sulfites can trigger adverse reactions in sensitive people, from asthma issues to behavior in autistic children, the FDA records that several deaths have occurred to excess sulfites used in foods.

Sulfur is essential for good health; eggs, onions, garlic, and cabbage are good sources of sulfur.

## Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Sulfur (S)

In soils up to 90% of sulfur is tightly bound to humus, so  $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$  is the major exchange anion. It is interesting that soils around the world have carbon to sulfur ratios of 100:1 and most sulfur in soils only occurs in organic forms. Sulfur is a structural component of humic and fulvic acids essential to healthy soils.

Sulfur is considered a primary plant nutrient (.05-1% of a plants tissue contains sulfur) and it is used by plants only in the sulfate form. Soil microbes are responsible for converting sulfur into a sulfate

form that plants can use and then plant roots extract sulfate ions ( $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$ ) from the soil.

Nitrogen fixing plants (legumes) require adequate sulfur for good nodule development. If there is not enough sulfur in the soil or it is out of balance in relation to other elements in the soil, then the plant-microbe system cannot obtain nitrogen from the air and fix it in the soil. All organisms from microbes to earthworms use sulfur in the form of the amino acids (cysteine and methionine) that are used to build proteins.

Plants use a lot of sulfur as it is required in the production of proteins and seeds plus it improves the taste of our foods.

A few plants have been found to emit carbon disulfide ( $\text{CS}_2$ ) from its roots to protect them from parasitic nematodes. Excess sulfates in the soil reduce selenium absorption by plants and can create soils that are too acidic for most plants.

Sulfur is one of the easiest leached of all mineral nutrients and it is easy to mistake a sulfur deficiency as a nitrogen deficiency as well as magnesium, iron or potassium deficiencies. Shortages of sulfur are signaled by sick crops, insect, bacterial and fungal attack, upper leaves may turn yellow, stems stay small and woody, root become long and slender, symptoms often resemble a nitrogen shortage.

Sources: compost, native mulches, molasses, sulfates, gypsum, elemental sulfur, feathers, green sand, fish emulsion

\* \* \*

## WEEKLY GARDENING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS CALENDAR

**PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT TO THIS CALENDAR.**

Events **NOT** submitted in the **EXACT** written format below may take two weeks or longer

**to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us.  
Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)**

**IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS,  
PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN  
*T HE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER***

SAT., JAN 14: URBAN HARVEST FRUIT TREE SALE, 9am-1pm (or sell-out), Rice University Parking Lot, 5600 Greenbriar Dr. [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org).

SAT., JAN. 14: FORT BEND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FRUIT & CITRUS TREE SALE, 9am-noon, County Fairgrounds, Barn H, 4310 TX-36, Rosenberg. [FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu), 281-733-7068. [fbmg.org](http://fbmg.org)

SAT, JAN 14: GROWING GREAT TOMATOES (PART 2 of 3) by IRA GERVAIS, 9-11:30 am; & SUCCESSFUL SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by HERMAN AUER, 1-3:30 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

MON., JAN. 16: OPEN GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Free. Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 event. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu)

TUE., JAN. 17: INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC LANDSCAPING, 8am-3:30pm, Centennial Gardens, Hermann Park, 1700 Hermann Dr. \$35. OHBA event. [ohbaonline.org](http://ohbaonline.org)

TUE, JAN 17: GARDENING BY THE SQUARE FOOT by JOHN JONS, 6:30-8:30pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but pre-register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

TUE., JAN. 17: CRYPTANTHUS by CAROLE RICHTMYER, 7:30pm, West Gray Mutli-Service Center, 1475 W Gray. Free. Bromeliad Society/Houston event. [bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)

TUE, JAN 17: GARDENING BY THE SQUARE FOOT by JOHN JONS, 6:30 -8:30 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

THU, JAN 19: FIG TREE PRUNING & PROPAGATION by TERRY CUCLIS, 9-10 am, AgriLife Research & Demonstration Garden, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

THURS., JAN. 19: GROWING VEGGIES, SHRUBS & FLOWERS IN CLAY SOIL by LINDA GAY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free but register: [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com)

THURS., JAN. 19: CITRUS DISEASE & PEST UPDATE by ROBERT (SKIP) RICHTER & DWARF SEVERENIA BUXITOLIA DWARF ROOTING STOCK by DR. ETHAN NATELSON, 6:30pm. Extension Office, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Free. Gulf Coast Fruit Study Group event. [Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ute.Schaefer@ag.tamu.edu)

THU, JAN 19: FIG TREE PRUNING & PROPAGATION by TERRY CUCLIS, 9-10am, AgriLife GCMG Research & Demonstration Garden, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but pre-register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., JAN. 21: FRUIT & NUT TREES: PRUNING TO PLANTING!, 9-11am, Montgomery Co. AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. \$5. Master Gardener event. 936-539-7824; [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

MON., JAN 23-FEB. 27: TEXAS GULF COAST GARDENER TIER III: THE ART OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN, 9am-3pm. Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. \$250. Register: 713-274-4160.

WED., JAN. 25: "SUCCULENT GARDENING PROJECTS AND TIPS FROM MERCER ARBORETUM by JACOB MARTIN, 7:30 p.m., Metropolitan Multi-Services Center, 1475 West Gray, Free. [hcss.tex.org](http://hcss.tex.org).

THURS., JAN. 26: RIGHT TREE RIGHT PLACE - DON'T OVERPLANT by LINDA GAY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free but register: [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com)

SAT, JAN 28: GROWING PEACHES IN GALVESTON COUNTY by HERMAN AUER, 9-11 am & KITCHEN GARDENING by MARY DEMENY, 1-3 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Master Gardener events. Free, but register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT. JAN. 28: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FRUIT & NUT TREE SALE, 8 am presentation, 9am-noon sale, AgriLife Extension Office, 9020 Airport Rd, Conroe. 936-539-7824; [mcmga.com](http://mcmga.com)

SAT, JAN 28: GROWING PEACHES IN GALVESTON COUNTY by HERMAN AUER, 9-11am & KITCHEN GARDENING by MARY DEMENY, 1-3pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but pre-register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., JAN. 28: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FRUIT TREE SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

SUN., JAN. 29: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE by Permaculture Guild of Houston, 12:30-5pm, University of Houston Central Campus. \$50. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org). Click on "Classes."

TUE, JAN 31: ANYONE CAN GROW ROSES by JOHN JONS, 6:30-8:30 pm; AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but pre-register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

WED., FEB. 1: BALANCE IN GARDEN DESIGN - PLAN BEFORE YOU PLANT by KAREN LEHR, 9am. C.L. United Methodist Church, 16635 El Camino Real. Free. Gardeners By The Bay event. Marjorie, 281-474-5051.

THURS., FEB. 2 : ATTRACTING BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR BACKYARD BY KATHY ADAMS CLARK, 1 0am , MUD Building, 805 Hidden Canyon Dr, Katy. Free, Nottingham Country Garden Club event. [nottinghamgardenclub.org](http://nottinghamgardenclub.org)

THURS., FEB. 2: ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS by LINDA GAY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free but register: [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com)

WED., FEB. 8: MICROGREENS, noon - 2pm, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT, FEB 4: GROWING CITRUS IN YOUR BACKYARD by ROBERT MARSHALL, 9-11:30 am, & GROWING BLUEBERRIES by DAVID COHEN, 1-2:30 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free, but register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

THURS., FEB. 9: ROSE PRUNING DONE RIGHT by HRS CONSULTING ROSARIANS 7:30pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Houston Rose Society event. [houstonrose.org](http://houstonrose.org)

THURS., FEB. 9: CONTAINER GARDENING: THRILLER, FILLER & SPILLER, OH MY! by LINDA GAY, 10am, The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Free but register: [arborgate.com](http://arborgate.com)

FRI., FEB.10: FLORAL DESIGN INSPIRED BY ART by HOUSTON DESIGNING WOMEN, 10am, White Oak Convention Center, 7603 Antoine. Free. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs event. [houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

SAT, FEB 11: GROWING AVOCADO & PAPAYA by Jerry Hurlbert, 9-11:30 am, & SOIL HEALTH & EVALUATION by JIM GILLIAM, 1-2:30 pm, AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4102-B Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

MON, FEB. 13: MONARCHS & MILKWEED by BARBARA WILLY, 6:30pm, Forest Room (BB1418), Bayou Building, University of Houston Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Free. \$5 parking. Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT)/Clear Lake Chapter event. [npsot.org/wp/clearlake/](http://npsot.org/wp/clearlake/)

THU, FEB 16: PRUNING ROSES by John Jons, 9-10 am, AgriLife Research & Demonstration Garden, 4102 Main, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free, but register: [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com), 281-534-3413, [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT, FEB 18: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL SPRING FRUIT & CITRUS TREE, VEGETABLE & PLANT SALE. Seminar 8am; Sale 9am-1pm. Jack Brooks Park Rodeo Arena, 10 Jack Brooks Rd and Hwy 6, Hitchcock. [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston)

SAT., FEB 18: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING 2017 PLANT SALE, 9 am-1 pm with pre-sale seminar 8-8:50 am, Jack Brooks Park Rodeo Arena, 10 Jack Brooks Rd and Hwy 6, Hitchcock, TX 77563 (Galveston County Fairgrounds)

SAT., FEB. 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PRECINCT 2 FRUIT TREE AND TOMATO SALE, Campbell Hall. Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7600 Red Bluff RD., Pasadena. [hcmga.tamu.edu](http://hcmga.tamu.edu).

MON., FEB. 20: STORYTIME IN THE GARDEN, 10:30-11:30 am, Mercer Botanic Garden, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Free. Register: 713-274-4160.

MAR. 4: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TOMATO-PEPPER SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

SAT., SUN., MAR. 4-5: SPRING BRANCH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB 37TH ANNUAL SHOW & SPRING SALE, Sat. Show 1-5pm, Sale 9am-5pm; Sun. Show & Sale, 10am-3pm; workshop Sat. & Sun. 1pm, Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Park Dr. Free. 281-748-8417, [kjwross@yahoo.com](mailto:kjwross@yahoo.com)

MON, MAR. 13: PLANT NOW FOR GREAT WILDSCAPES by DIANA FOSS, 6:30pm, Forest Room (BB1418), Bayou Building, University of Houston Clear Lake, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. Free, \$5 parking. Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT)/Clear Lake Chapter event. [npsot.org/wp/clearlake/](http://npsot.org/wp/clearlake/)

SAT., MAR. 18: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE, Genoa Friendship Garden, Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds. 281-855-5600

SAT., APRIL 1.: WHITE OAK GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am program by Heidi Sheesley, 10am-2pm (or till sold out) sale, White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine Dr. [nmd.org](http://nmd.org)

APR. 22: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PERENNIAL SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

OCT. 7: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT SALE, Bear Creek Garden, 3033 Bear Creek Dr. 281-855-5600

**If we inspire you to attend any of these events, please let them know you heard about it in . . .  
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!**

**PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING AN EVENT FOR THIS CALENDAR.**

Events **NOT** submitted in the **EXACT** written format below may take two weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped. After that point, if your event does not appear, please email us. Sorry, no children's programs. - Submit to: [lazygardener@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lazygardener@sbcglobal.net)

**IF WE INSPIRE YOU TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE TELL SPONSORS YOU HEARD ABOUT IT IN  
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER**

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE  
POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS





## ADOPTABLE DOG OF THE MONTH

### PEGGY SUE

Please Help Peggy Sue Get Adopted. She is a super sweet Pointer Mix and former shelter dog. She is about three years old. She has been spayed and is current on her shots. She is very social and plays well with other dogs and people including children. She is very mellow most of the time but does love to play and be silly in spurts. She is house trained and is not destructive in nature. She does need a companion dog.

The local rescue A Chance To Bloom helped us save her from the shelter initially, they helped her adapt to life outside of the shelter and helped socialize her. Now they are helping us to find a loving forever home. She is currently in the care of her foster who is unfortunately very maxed out with his own adopted former shelter dogs. Peggy Sue is a super special dog that is sure to bring her future family some really good kisses and good times in general.

If interested, please contact [A Chance To Bloom](#) or her foster Mark Bowen at [markbowenhoutx@gmail.com](mailto:markbowenhoutx@gmail.com)



## ABOUT US

### BRENDA BEUST SMITH

WE KNOW HER BEST AS THE LAZY GARDENER . . .

. . . but Brenda Beust Smith is also:

- \* a national award-winning writer & editor
- \* a nationally-published writer & photographer
- \* a national horticultural speaker
- \* a former Houston Chronicle reporter

When the Chronicle discontinued Brenda 's 45-year-old "Lazy Gardener" print column a couple of years ago, it ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda 's gradual sideways step from Chronicle reporter into gardening writing led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* book and now to her *Lazy Gardener's Guide* on CD (which retails for \$20. However, \$5 of every sale is returned to the sponsoring group at her speaking engagements).

A Harris County Master Gardener, Brenda has served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations and has hosted local radio and TV shows, most notably a 10+-year Lazy

Gardener run on HoustonPBS (Ch. 8) and her call-in "EcoGardening" show on KPFT-FM.

Brenda recently ended her decades-long stint as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's **BULLETIN** magazine. Although still an active horticulture lecturer and broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is **THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER** with John Ferguson and Mark Bowen of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Aldine and is married to the now retired Aldine High School Coach Bill Smith. They have one son, Blake.

Regarding this newsletter, Brenda is the lead writer, originator of it and the daily inspiration for it. We so appreciate the way she has made gardening such a fun way to celebrate life together for such a long time.

## **JOHN FERGUSON**

John is a native Houstonian and has over 27 years of business experience. He owns Nature's Way Resources, a composting company that specializes in high quality compost, mulch, and soil mixes. He holds a MS degree in Physics and Geology and is a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas.

John has won many awards in horticulture and environmental issues. He represents the composting industry on the Houston-Galveston Area Council for solid waste. His personal garden has been featured in several horticultural books and "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. His business has been recognized in the Wall Street Journal for the quality and value of their products. He is a member of the Physics Honor Society and many other professional societies. John is the co-author of the book *Organic Management for the Professional*.

For this newsletter, John contributes articles regularly and is responsible for publishing it.

## **MARK BOWEN**

Mark is a native Houstonian, a horticulturist, certified permaculturist and organic specialist with a background in garden design, land restoration and organic project management. He is currently the general manager of Nature's Way Resources. Mark is also the co-author of the book *Habitat Gardening for Houston and Southeast Texas*, the author of the book *Naturalistic Landscaping for the Gulf Coast*, co-author of the *Bayou Planting Guide* and contributing landscape designer for the book *Landscaping Homes: Texas*.

With respect to this newsletter, Mark serves as a co-editor and periodic article contributor.

## **PABLO HERNANDEZ**

Pablo Hernandez is the special projects coordinator for Nature's Way Resources. His realm of responsibilities include: serving as a webmaster, IT support, technical problem solving/troubleshooting, metrics management, quality control, and he is a certified compost facility operator.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.



**COUPON: Nature's Way Resources. 50% OFF Pomegranates & Pears at Nature's Way Resources (expires 1/22/17)**

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