



Sep-18-2020 | Issue 356

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Nature's Way Resources owner John Ferguson, "The Lazy Gardener" Brenda Beust Smith and Pablo Hernandez welcome your feedback and are so grateful to the many horticulturists who contribute their expertise.

[Click here to join our email list](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) for PDFs OF PAST LG&F NEWSLETTERS

CORONAVIRUS CANCELLATIONS

If your event in our calendar below is cancelled, please let us know as soon as possible at lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com



PERFECT AUTUMN EQUINOX GIFT FOR GARDENERS & A ROSE EXTRAVAGANZA

*"There is always music in the garden amongst the trees,
but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it."*

– Minnie Aumonier, 19th Century poet,

by **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

How will you celebrate Tuesday's Fall (Autumn) Equinox? Day and night equal in length. Nights now get longer, days shorter. What does this mean for gardens?

It means "Get Going!" We are moving into the winter phase of our 12-month growing season, the ideal time for winter vegetables like (plant this month): boc

choi, broccoli, cauliflower & epazote. And to get ready for October plantings of artichoke, arugula, chives (onion/garlic), cilantro, snap/green beans, carrot, chard, claytonia, dill and fennel.

Not sure about this? Then you need the perfect Fall Equinox gift for yourself, loved ones and friends. It's FREE!



"URBAN HARVEST'S FALL PLANTING GUIDE" IS now available to download at www.urbanharvest.org. (Look on left side of webpage. It's a download, not a page that opens up.)

This Urban Harvest complete 4-season gift to the community is probably the most valuable gardening aid you will ever enjoy. It also shows why it's so silly for us to follow planting time advice off the Internet or even from other parts of Texas!

"Urban Harvest's Fall Planting Guide" primarily deals with edibles but its general gardening advice applies to all plants. If you're also looking for fall ornamentals, don't overlook my free downloadable book at the end of this column. It's divided into months, instead of chapters, with super-hardy garden designs/plants for each month. But best of all, it's also LOCAL to the Greater Houston area!

- It's almost impossible in our little subtropical pocket (the Greater Houston area) to predict winter, which makes it iffy to recommend winter bloomers. Gloria Estes Cirilo, who lives on Bolivar Peninsula finds her into-winter bloomers often include hibiscus, roses, plumeria, cacti, pride of Barbados (pictured/not Gloria's), firecracker plant, bougainvillea and oleanders -- to name just a few.



Depending on weather, these may also continue blooming long into "winter" farther north & west. Mother Nature issues no guarantees, as we all know too well!



I agree to attract and encourage pollinators, it's best to have as many native plants as possible. But Sally O'Neil asked if it would be better for her to skip planting snaps, pansies, larkspur and other usual spring-annual bloomers in favor of all natives? Do these attract pollinators too?

Absolutely! I photographed this butterfly on a pansy in a planting outside a local Cracker Barrel restaurant. The bed was alive fluttering wings. Some flowers are pollinated mostly by wind, but most are pollinated by butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, bees, and other wildlife. These are attracted to imported annual flowers just as they are to our great native pollinator bloomers.

Native flowers are better for these pollinators -- they've developed in our area over eons of meeting specific personal/pollinator needs. But non-native winter/early spring annuals are certainly going to attract them too.

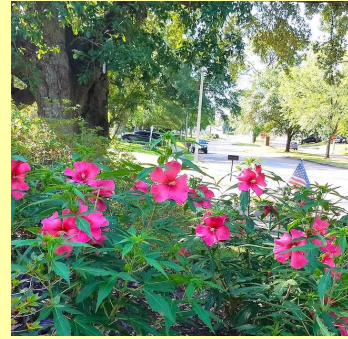
If you're not sure which winter annuals are hardiest in your area, ask your local independent neighborhood nurserymen about those in their inventories. They want and need your continued patronage, so need to make you happy!

If you missed Kathy Huber's "We're Luck to Garden Year-Round" recent article in the Chronicle, check it out [here](#): Ditto for Gary Clark's [recent hummingbird article](#). Thank you, Chronicle, for keeping Kathy's & Gary's expertise flowing!

* * *

LOVE THIS "PLANT SHOPPING" TALE FROM

DALE PHILLIPS: Dale regularly checks box stores' garden "dollar racks." He wrote: *"One day I noticed 12 Hardy hibiscus original price \$25 marked down to \$12.50. Not paying that either. I watched them for a week, they looked dead but I knew they were alive. One day I asked the garden shop manager, 'if I take them all, how much?' He said \$1.75 each. I could hardly contain myself. They are beautiful colors!"* He has since given away all but four. These bloom daily! (Spoiler: he deadheads these \$1.75 plants every day!)



* * *

QUICK SNIPS

- This is opening weekend for the eagerly awaited **Houston Botanical Garden** (pictured here). In this weekend's spotlight: Latin American influences. [Details](#)
- **FROM** [\(CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION\)](#) I don't know about your yard, but I'm definitely seeing more hummers than ever. Must-check resources:
 1. [Audubon Society's Hummingbirds of Houston website](#)
 2. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory's [Virtual Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza](#) on Sept. 18 & 26 to fully enjoy our peak migration period.
 3. **Don't let your landscape chase birds away.** Most of our migratory birds fly at night when lights can disorient them. Sept. 15-Nov. 15, Houston Audubon and other groups urge homeowners and businesses to turn "**Lights Out for Birds**" to reduce light pollution. Details: houstonaudubon.org. (Sign up for the free CEC newsletter: cechouston.org)
- **URBAN HARVEST's 2021 21st Annual Fruit Tree Sale** has been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay updated on UH's numerous virtual programs & events: urbanharvest.org



* * *

DON'T PICK WATER HYACINTHS!

Our *"Have You Tried . . ."* flower touted below John's column -- Texas Swamp Lily (*Crinum americanum*) -- is a great choice for our gardens. But another beautiful-but-dangerous purple swamp bloomer flowering now, the invasive

[water hyacinth](#), is spelling death for our waterways and native aquatic life. It spreads fast enough on its own. Trouble is, too many folks think it's so beautiful, they take it home to plant. DON'T DO THIS!!!



* * *

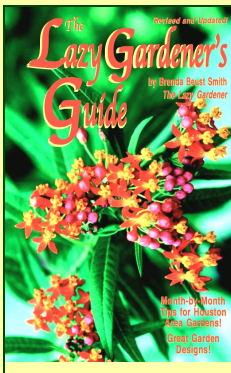


IN OUR SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE BELOW, GAYE HAMMOND

previews Houston Rose Society's Oct. 2 virtual program on David Austin roses. When special roses have Gaye excited, it's great news for the rest of us. A Master Rosarian, HRS Past President, former American Rose magazine Special Section Editor and one of my favorite rose gurus, Gaye writes [one The Arbor Gate's great blogs](#). (This beautiful rose pictured with Gaye is the ["Gaye Hammond rose."](#))

PS. Did you know Houston has the largest rose society in the nation? Who else would tell you these things?

THURS., OCT. 8: FABULOUS FRAGRANT SHRUB ROSES OF DAVID AUSTIN (virtual program)
7-9pm. Houston Rose Society event. Free. global.gotomeeting.com/join/508500077
access code: 508-500-077. Phone: +1 (312)757-3121.



Free PDF download of Brenda's now-out-of-print —
"LAZY GARDENER'S GUIDE"

[Lazy Gardener Guide Front Cover](#) [Lazy Gardener Rest Of Covers](#)
[Lazy Gardener Guide Book Pages](#)

*In exchange for this free book, all I ask is that you be safe . . .
PLEASE WEAR A MASK! Protect yourself and the rest of us!*

* * *

**Brenda's LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN
NEWSLETTER** column is based on her 40+ years as the Houston
Chronicle's Lazy Gardener

* * *





*'Princess Alexandra of Kent', left, and 'The Lady Gardener'
In vase — 'The Generous Gardener'*

FABULOUS & FRAGRANT SHRUB ROSES OF DAVID AUSTIN

by **GAYE HAMMOND**

Master Rosarian & Past President

[Houston Rose Society](#)



As one of the most famous rose breeders, David Austin introduced over 190 rose cultivars during his lifetime. Many of them not only send out beautiful and sometimes unique blooms, but also have wonderful fragrance.

Interestingly, there is a connection between the colors of his roses and their scents. Mr. Austin's breeding program focused on producing roses that had one of five fragrances; myrrh (licorice), fruit, old garden rose (his favorite), tea and musk, and some of the roses even boast a combination of more than one fragrance. Very few of his roses lack scent, so almost always additions of David Austin's roses will add a wonderful fragrance to your garden.

The flower form of David Austin roses is perhaps the most unique of all flower forms created by modern breeders. One can see forms similar to peonies, dahlias, cabbage roses, old garden roses and everything in between. Those varieties with more than 50 petals make excellent cut flowers that last many days in a vase.



Deep red 'Munstead Wood' close & in landscape



Contrast peach 'Lady of Shallot' with Blue Salvia



***'Golden Celebration'
herbaceous***



'The Poets Wife'

***All rose photos courtesy of
[David Austin Roses, Ltd.](#) & [Facebook Page](#)***

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(virtual program). 7-9pm. Houston Rose Society event. Free.**

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access code: 508-500-077. Phone: +1 (312)757-3121.

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Microalgae, Soil, Climate Change, & Contagion: Solutions for a COVID-19 Recalibrated World

Featuring David Ramjohn,
CEO of Algeternal Technologies



“Microbes Rule the World”

In our recalibrated world, we must understand & respect the importance of microorganisms. Microalgae are the single most important category of microbes on Earth. Learn what Microalgae are & how using them will help you grow the best plants ever. We must harness these planetary primary producers to promote growth, reverse the damage we have done & avert future crises.

September 23, 2020 5:00 to 6:00 PM CDT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87232207340>

Meeting ID: 872 3220 7340

THANK YOU SPONSORS



John's Corner . . .



BOOK REVIEW

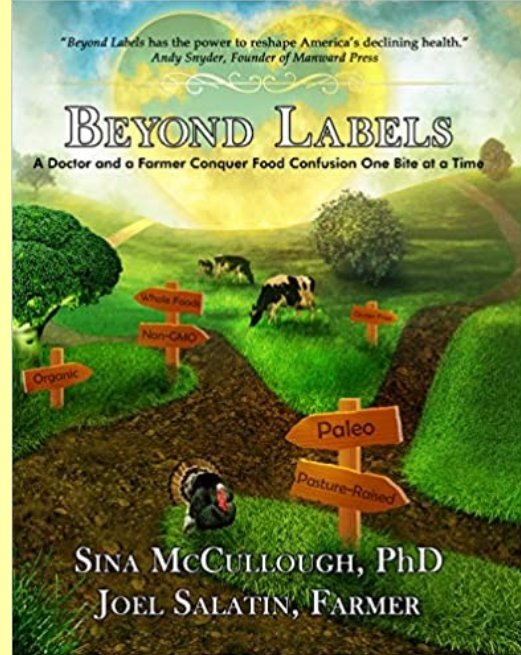
This is another excellent book on the issues with our food supply. It is for homeowners who want to understand how to protect their families and have a healthier lifestyle without constant disease issues and required medication. I found this book easy to read and understand with lots of useful information.

“Beyond Labels – A Doctor and a Farmer Conquer Food Confusion One Bite at a Time”, by Sina McCullough, PhD and Joel Salatin, Farmer, 2020, Chelsea Green Publishing, ISBN: 978-1-7336866-0-0

About Sina McCullough

Dr. Sina McCullough is the author of *Hands Off My Food*. She holds a Ph.D. in Nutritional Science and a B.S. in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior, both from the University of California at Davis. She was the Director of R&D for a supplement company and taught Biochemistry and Bioenergetics at UC Davis.

Despite her knowledge, she developed an autoimmune disease, which prompted her to launch an investigation into our food supply. What she learned saved her life; she reversed the disease without the use of medication. Now, Dr. McCullough is dedicated to helping others avoid the health challenges she has faced



About Joel Salatin

Joel Salatin and his family own and operate Polyface Farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. The farm produces pastured beef, pork, chicken, eggs, turkeys, rabbits, lamb and ducks, servicing roughly 6,000 families and 50 restaurants in the farm's bioregion. He has written 11 books to date and lectures around the world on land healing, local food systems. Joel is one of the world leaders in regenerative agriculture.

Through compelling discussions leavened with a dose of humor, they share practical and easily doable tips about:

- What to eat
- How to find it and prepare it
- How to save money and time in the kitchen
- How to stay true to your principles in our modern culture

“The ideas, evidence and takeaways from this book have the power to reshape America’s declining health. This is the most-fascinating, inspirational, and flat out most useful book I’ve ever read. Joel and Sina have done what no other authors have managed to do. They’ve created a survival guide for the war on our gut microbiome.” –**Andy Snyder, Founder of Manward Press.**

"Dr. Sina McCullough and Joel Salatin bridge the gap between producer, consumer and healthcare practitioner in their amazing book *Beyond Labels*. Whether you are just embarking on your health or you are a nutrition ninja, this book is for you." --**Robb Wolf, New York Times bestselling author of The Paleo Solution and Wired To Eat**

Whether you're new to clean eating or processed food never crosses your lips,

you'll find there's so much to learn in this book. It's the kind you read over more than once. The authors' approach is so warm that it feels like you're sitting down with friends.

The title of their book, *Beyond Labels*, is a brilliant understatement. Joel and Sina take you through the grocery stores and back to the farms so you can learn more about where your food does (and should) come from. They break it down into more than 70 "practical bites" in which they provide simple action items for any person who wants to change their health and their life through eating better food. Daisy Luther.

HAVE YOU TRIED

. . .

TEXAS SWAMP LILY

(*Crinum americanum*)

A perfect native garden choice - - this fragrant, eye-grabbing summer/fall-blooming native crinum sprouts 4" snow-white blooms atop 1'-3' stalks, with attractive shrub-like strap leaves even when not flowering. Definitely not picky about soil or sun/shade. Ideal for spots where water stands after a rain, it also easily tolerates our blasting hot droughts. If freezes back in winter, returns reliably from bulbs in spring. Used in past to treat both human and cattle ailments. Native across the South, it is pollinated by the hawk moth, but is also utilized by a wide array of bees and other insects.



TEXAS SWAMP LILY is carried by *Nature's Way Resources* ([Map](#)).
Or . . . contact our sponsor, *Montgomery Pines Nursery* in Willis, our other
sponsors below or your neighborhood nurseryman for possible sources.

LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

All events in Houston unless otherwise specified.

See Farmers Markets at end of calendar

ADULT GARDEN PLANT EVENTS ONLY
ALWAYS CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOUR EVENT IS IN! HOWEVER . . .

PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING EVENTS!

- Events NOT submitted in the EXACT format below may take 2 weeks or longer to be reformatted/retyped and added to calendar.

- **FARMERS MARKETS** -- Normally we do not run non-gardening/plant events. During this pandemic, when most gardening events have been cancelled, we are happy to publish a running list of local Farmers Markets. See at end of calendar.

Submit events to: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com.

ALWAYS put group name in email subject.

CHECK WEBSITES FOR ON-SITE COVID-19-RELATED PRECAUTIONS!

FRI., SEPT. 18-SUN., SEPT. 20: HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN OPENING SEASON – CELEBRATING LATIN AMERICA, 9am-5pm daily, One Botanic Lane. [Purchase tickets](#)

SAT., SEPT. 19: COOL SEASON VEGETABLES online class. 9am. Fort Bend County Master Gardener event. \$15. Register deadline 2 days prior: fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/. 281-342-3034 or Brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

SAT., SEPT. 26: 23rd ANNUAL WOODLANDS LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS (drive-through event) by The WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP, 9am-noon. Sterling Ridge Park & Ride, 8001 McBeth Way, The Woodlands. thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment

FRI., OCT. 2-SUN., OCT. 4: HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN OPENING SEASON – CELEBRATING ASIA, 9am-5pm daily, One Botanic Lane. [Purchase tickets](#)

SAT., OCT 3: BRAZORIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL ONLINE PLANT SALE, 9am-4pm, Plant Pick Up 585 CR 443, Angleton. Brazoria County Master Gardeners event. 979-248-8257, smsbanks195@gmail.com; <https://txmg.org/brazoria/home/>

THURS., OCT. 8: FABULOUS FRAGRANT SHRUB ROSES OF DAVID AUSTIN (virtual program), 7-9pm. Houston Rose Society event. Free. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/508500077> access code: 508-500-077. Phone: +1 (312)757-3121.

SAT. OCT.10: HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS PLANT SALE & FOOD DRIVE, 10am-1pm, 1501 Sunset Blvd. Houston Federation of Garden Clubs & The First Christian Church event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

SAT., OCT. 10: NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRD (Zoom program), 9am-4:30 pm. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter event. \$52. Details/Registration: www.npsot.org/wp/nlcpnps

FRI., OCT. 16-SUN., OCT. 18: HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN OPENING SEASON – CELEBRATING AFRICA, 9am-5pm daily, One Botanic Lane, [Purchase tickets](#)

SAT., OCT. 17: FRUIT TREES-WHAT TO GROW IN FORT BEND COUNTY, online class. 9am. Fort Bend County Master Gardener event. \$15. Register at least 2 days prior; fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/. 281-342-3034 or Brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

SAT., OCT. 24: NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRD (Zoom program), 9am-4:30 pm. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter event. \$52. Details/Registration: www.npsot.org/wp/nlcpnps

FRI., OCT. 30-SUN., NOV. 1: HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN OPENING SEASON – CELEBRATING THE MEDITERRANEAN, 9am-5pm daily, One Botanic Lane. [Purchase tickets](#)

SAT., NOV. 7: NATIVE LANDSCAPES FOR BIRD (Zoom program), 9am-4:30 pm. Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter event. \$52. Details/Registration: www.npsot.org/wp/nlcpnps

SAT., NOV. 14: COMPOSTING - BENEFITS & HOW TO COMPOST (virtual class). 9am. Fort Bend County Master Gardener event. \$15. Register at least 2 days prior; fortbend.agrilife.org/grow-your-own/. 281-342-3034 or Brandy.rader@ag.tamu.edu

TUES., NOV. 17: HEIRLOOM PLANTS (Zoom program) by GREG GRANT, 10am. Sugar Land Garden Club event. sugarlandgardenclub.org

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LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

- [URBAN HARVEST FARMERS MARKET](#), Saturdays, 8am-noon, in St. John's School parking lot, 2752 Buffalo Speedway.
- [FULSHEAR FARMERS MARKET](#) Saturdays, 9am-1pm, 9035 Bois d'Arc Lane @ FM 1093, Fulshear.
- [THE WOODLANDS FARMERS MARKET AT GROGAN'S MILL](#), Saturdays, 8am-noon, Grogan's Mill Shopping Center Parking Lot, 7 Switchbud Pl., The Woodlands
- [BEAUTY'S GARDEN](#), Acres Homes Farmers Market Saturday, 10am-2pm, 4333 W Little York Rd.
- [WESTCHASE DISTRICT FARMERS MARKET](#), Thursdays, opens 3pm, St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church, 10503 Westheimer Road (at Rogerdale Road, one block west of Beltway 8)
- [MEMORIAL VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET](#), Saturdays, 9am-1pm, 10840 Beinhorn Rd.

Although normally we did not run out-of-garden events, during this pandemic period when most gardening events have been cancelled, we are happy to publish a running list of local Farmers Markets.
Send notices to lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com



For event submission rules, see top of calendar
If we inspire you to attend any of these,
please let them know you heard about it in . . .
THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!
& please patronize our Newsletter & Calendar sponsors below!

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE
BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS**

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us
at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: lazygardenerandfriends@gmail.com



www.bartlett.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 -- started in the early '70s as a fun side-, it then ranked as the longest-running, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from reporter into gardening writing -- first as a just-a-fun side Chronicle assignment in the early '70s -- led first to an 18-year series of when-to-do-what Lazy Gardener Calendars, then to her Lazy Gardener's Guide book which morphed into her Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD. which she now emails free upon request.

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

For over three decades, Brenda served as as Production Manager of the Garden Club of America's BULLETIN magazine. Although still an active broad-based freelance writer, Brenda's main focus now is THE LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER with John Ferguson and Pablo Hernandez of Nature's Way Resources.

A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Agnes Academy and the University of Houston, Brenda lives in Humble, TX, and is married to the 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.

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 and quality control.

Pablo helps this newsletter happen from a technical support standpoint.

