



Oct-23-2020 | Issue 361

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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.

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CORONAVIRUS CANCELLATIONS

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

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"Trash the 'Mono' in Monoculture!" (including around roses)

***"If you've never experienced the joy of accomplishing
more than you can imagine, plant a garden."***

— — Robert Brault

by BRENDA BEUST SMITH

Funny how coincidences happen. Gaye Hammond wrote this great Spotlight article for us below, and here comes a query from Lynn Brand in The Woodlands who just bought a house with lovely roses.

She wants a wide variety of plants and wondered which ones would do well planted around the roses. A few queries confirmed hers are hybrid teas, the grafted roses hybridized to produce the long-stemmed beauties that earned

this bloomer the title of "World's Most Popular Flower."

Time was when she'd have been warned not to plant ANYTHING around her roses. Like Greta, they "*vant to be alone.*" Translation, their roots don't like competition.

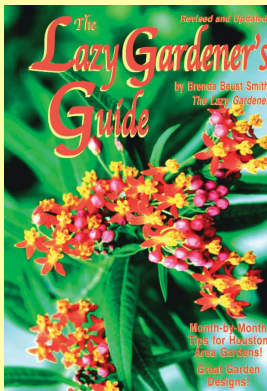
But fast-forward to today when we have so many different kinds of roses, from true antiques to hybridized shrub varieties.



In our Spotlight Article below, Houston Rose Society Past President and Rosarian Gaye Hammond takes a much more professional approach to today's gardens & plants with many recommendations -- a lot came as a surprise to me too!

But don't stop here! **COMPANION PLANTS FOR ROSES** will also be a virtual presentation by the Houston Rose Society Thurs., Nov. 12, 7-9pm. Go to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/338015965>. Or dial in using the phone: United States +1 (571)317-3122

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

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.
Help make this pandemic go away. PLEASE WEAR A MASK!
Protect yourself and the rest of us!*

* * *



Trash the "Mono" in Monoculture!

Mixing Roses with Companion Plants in the Garden

By **Gaye Hammond**

Past President, Houston Rose Society
gayeh@lpm-triallaw.com

Since the 19th Century, monoculture growing allowed growers to specialize in one plant and purchase only tools and product needed to support that variety. This practice changed in the 1970's due to the organic gardening movement. Today, we know that monocultures are more susceptible to insects/diseases and require more applications of pesticides.

Pictured: Gertrude Jekyll with salvia and lupines



Not all plants play well with roses which don't like to be crowded and need an open area around them for air circulation and room in the ground so that their roots don't compete with other plants. The nutrition, soil pH, moisture and sun/shade needs of companions also need to match

those for roses. ***(Pictured: Left, English Rose Vanessa Bell and Verbena bonariensis. Right, Lady of Shalott with blue salvia. -- David Austin Roses photos.)***

David Austin Roses, Ltd.. has the best example of companion planting with roses that I have ever seen. The company recommends rose companions be planted 3' away from roses with at least 2' between mature rose bushes. This means that some advance planning is necessary to ensure that every plant has the space needed to live in an uncrowded environment.



Darcey Bussell rose, Nepeta 'Kit Kat,' Heuchera 'Obsidian'

Plants that DO NOT make good bed neighbors for roses:

- Have aggressive root systems like mint, wisteria and trees;
- Have shrubby top growth that blocks light and prevents good air circulation (hibiscus);
- Require dappled shade and different soil pH, like azaleas;
- Vines with aggressive growth habits (e.g. cypress, hyacinth bean, and honeysuckle vines);
- Strangling groundcovers (lantana and Asiatic jasmine) that invade the rose's growing space;
- Some Mediterranean-type herbs that prefer a hot dry environment. Rosemary does not appreciate the same amount of water that roses need.

Good rose companions include:

- Herbs like blue-green Bell Pepper Basil (a cold tolerant variety that comes back year after year), garlic, chives, dill, thyme, sage, catmint, and parsley.



Companion vines for climbing roses — left, Rosarium Uetersen and clematis. Right, Patriot Dream shrub with geranium 'Rozanne.' Gaye Hammond photos

- Perennials like compact Golden Dewdrop Duranta, pentas, milkweed, foxglove, delphinium, scabiosa (pincushion plant), salvia 'Mystic Spires' and sages 'Henry Duelberg' and 'Wendy's Wish' do well with roses.
- Annual plants like heat-loving lobelia varieties can be used to spill over the borders of planting beds and dianthus can be tucked away in small spaces.
- Only one vine makes my list and that is non-invasive clematis varieties which help expand a climbing rose's color season.

I get much more pleasure from a garden with roses as opposed to a rose garden all by itself.

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John's
Corner . . .



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 133

I recently read a couple articles in the Journals Pest Management Science (2020), and Weed Science (2020), on weed resistance to herbicides. Weeds are evolving new ways to be resistant to certain types of herbicide damage by ramping up enzyme production. These enzymes neutralize the herbicides before they can cause cellular damage. Water hemp is an example of this process. Super weeds are increasing daily that are resistant to all herbicides.

Oregon State University researchers released a new study in the journal PLOS ONE (2020) on the effects of pesticides on bees. They found the active ingredients "sulfoxaflor" and "flupyradifurone", when applied at sub-lethal doses, did not kill the bees immediately, however it severely shortened their lifespans. In some cases, they only had 6 hours of life.

A paper published in the journal Scientific Reports (2020) by Goethe University (Frankfurt) using a new video technique, has found that exposure to certain pesticides like the neonicotinoids changed the behavior of the nurse bees. They found that the larval development took up to 10 hours longer which makes it easier for parasites like the Varroa mite to infect the bees. They also found that exposure to these pesticides changed the bees learning behavior, and altered their navigational ability.

It makes me wonder how these toxic chemicals are affecting our children as they are used on many food crops.

The "Detox Project" is now offering a certification for products tested free of glyphosate (Round-Up). Many products from baby food to protein powders are full of the toxic chemical glyphosate. One can learn more about which ones are safe at detoxproject.org

Look for the seal below when buying common products to protect one's family.



The journal Forest Ecology and Management (2020) had a recent article on tree growth and bedrock type such as shale or sandstone. They found that trees grow faster on soils that were derived from shales (had shale underneath the soil) as compared to soils above sandstones.

They found that trees grew 25% faster and sequestered more carbon (55%) than those trees growing over sandstone. They also found that the diversity of trees was higher on shale sites.

They hypothesized that it was because there was more water stored and available in shale derived soils.

I believe there is another factor in play, as geologically shale is formed in aqueous environments, primarily oceans. Seawater has all 84 naturally occurring elements in it, hence a lot of these elements are deposited with the shale as it is forming. Shale has a much finer particle size, hence after uplifting to form continents, there would be less leaching of nutrients (elements) as compared to sandstone derived soils. Thus, mineralization may also be a factor as we have seen with hundreds of species of plants.

A study in the Indian Journal of Entomology found that organically grown rice had fewer problems with the insect pest called the rice yellow stem borer than conventionally grown rice. The organic rice had a lot more borer egg parasitizing beneficial insects, hence less damage.

The journal International Society for Microbial Ecology (2020) had an article on spittle bugs. These bugs produce clusters of spit that keep them from drying out and protects them from predators.

These insects live on the sap from the xylem layer of plants, a very nutrient poor food. They found two types of special bacteria living in the spittle bugs. These bacteria work together. The first has the ability to convert the sap into the sugar glucose and the second bacteria takes the glucose produced and uses it to produce all 7 essential amino acids required by the bugs.

The Rodale Institute has released a paper summarizing three more research studies that confirm *“Healthy soil = Healthy People.”* The summary explains that plants from healthy soils have much higher levels of molecules like ergothioneine a natural occurring anti-oxidant or vitamin B₃ and beta glucans. The full papers can be found at: www.rodaleinstitute.org

More reasons to grow and buy organic food.

A colleague of mine Jeff Lowenfels (author of the books “Teaming With Microbes and Teaming With Fungi”) sent me a paper from Cornell University titled “Secrets of the Soil: A newly discovered microbe builds understanding of soil ecosystems”.

They discovered a new species of bacteria (*P. madseniana*) that responds to aromatic chemicals that tree roots produce (exudates). These signaling chemicals stimulate the bacteria to produce more nutrients for the tree.

Along the same lines, a paper in the Journal of Comparative Psychology (2020) by researchers at the University of Padua in Italy, found that plants can sense, feel, think, and communicate among themselves.

For example, the Venus Fly Trap conserves energy by *counting* time and *remembering* triggers.

Another experiment with *Mimosa pudica* commonly known as the sensitive plant demonstrated that it can learn and remember. By dropping the plant from a six-inch height. The first few times it closed its leaves, but after a few drops the plant learned that there was no harm being done to it and quit closing its leaves. This learned response lasted up to a month.

I recently read a paper on the health benefits of Garlic (*Allium sativum*) as it has been used for thousands of years to treat everything from wound healing to diseases and parasites.

Scientists are studying 17 different compounds found in garlic in relation to Covid-19. They found two organosulfur compounds (allyl disulfide and allyl trisulfide) which compose over 50% of garlic's essential oils were a natural anti-virus source which helps prevent the invasion of the coronavirus into the human body.

Other studies have found that garlic was active against a number of other viruses like the common flu, common cold, HIV, herpes types 1 and 2, and rhinoviruses.

A study from the University of Louisville found that garlic helped reduce age related declines in our gut microbiota which are linked to cognitive decline. Other studies have shown garlic is good for our hearts, and has a strong anti-inflammatory effect.

As you might suspect, home grown garlic using organic methods are higher in these beneficial compounds.

Evidence continues to grow that the microbes in our guts actively communicate with our brains, or as some have called it, “The Lovebug Effect”. A paper in the Journal of The Total Environment has found that our

thirst for nature is driven by the microbes in our guts.

It appears that microbes in our digestive system when NOT exposed to new microbes from nature, hijack neural pathways between the brain and gut to drive our nature seeking behavior. "The microbes in our guts are yearning for their outdoor counter parts and our telling our brains to go find them".

There is a far greater diversity of microbes in nature and instinctively we know that this is good for us. As in numerous other studies of nature, the greater the diversity of all life, the healthier the ecosystem.

It seems that the microbes are using scents to drive our reactions. Whom does not love the smell of fresh rain or the rich fragrance of healthy organic rich soil? It does make us feel good.

Many gardeners love the feel of a good compost or rich fertile soil on their hands. This hands-on experience may boost our immune system, our mental health, and overall well-being.

The reasons to be an organic gardener continue to increase. Note: When one uses the obsolete toxic rescue chemical methods, most of these benefits are destroyed and lost.

HAVE YOU TRIED .

. .

MAYHAW

(*Crataegus opaca*)

Gathering mayhaw berries for jellies, etc., has been a Southern tradition for centuries. Mayhaw, a small deciduous native tree also beloved for its ornamental beauty, thrives in both swampy and well drained areas. Beautiful white blooms late spring through summer are followed by tasty brilliant red berries that attract birds and other welcome wildlife. Limbs provide perfect protected nesting sites. 20'-30' tall, sun/partial shade. Mayhaw, Louisiana's official state fruit, is actually a member of the rose family. Berries taste somewhat like cranberries.



Mayhaw are carried by Nature's Way Resources (Map).

Or contact 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.
PLEASE ALWAYS put group's FULL name in email subject.

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

MON.-SAT., OCT. 19-24: HOUSTON ARBORETUM & NATURE CENTER 'SCIENCE SPOOKTACULAR,' 4501 Woodway Dr. houstonarboretum.org

FRI/SAT OCT 23-24: Heritage Gardener Holiday Market & Plant Sale, 9 am to 4 pm each day at 112 W. Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. Free. [Heritage Gardeners of Friendswood](http://HeritageGardenersofFriendswood.com).

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

THURS., OCT. 29: WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDEN TIPS (virtual lecture) by BRANDI KELLER, 10-10:30am. Free. Harris County Master Gardener Program. Register: homegrown2020october.eventbrite.com/.

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

SUN., NOV. 1- THURS., DEC. 31: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FRUIT TREE SALE (online only). Pickup: Sat., Jan. 31, Richard & Meg Weekley Park, 19110 Longenbaugh Rd, Cypress. Order: HCMGA-online.company.site

SUN., NOV. 1- SUN., JAN. 31: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FRUIT TREE & TOMATO PLANT SALE (online only). Pickup: Sat. Feb. 20 at Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7601 Red Bluff Road, Pasadena. Order: HCMGA-online.company.site

THURS.-SAT., NOV. 5-7: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BULBS SALE (online). Inventory posted: galveston-county-master-gardener-assn.square.site/

FRI., NOV. 6: TEXAS ARBOR DAY, 1pm-4pm, Mercer Botanic Gardens. Free. 713-274-4160.

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

SAT., NOV. 14: KINGWOOD GARDEN CLUB 20th ANNUAL REFOREST THE FOREST TREE SALE & GIFT MARKET, 8am-1pm, Kingwood Town Center Park, 8 N Main St, Kingwood. Free. [facebook.com/KingwoodGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/KingwoodGardenClub)

SAT., NOV. 14: VIRTUAL SPECIALTY PLANT SALE, 8am-8pm, [The Mercer Society](https://www.themercersociety.square.site). Online only at [themercersociety.square.site](https://www.themercersociety.square.site). 713-274-4166.

SAT., NOV. 14: WILDFLOWERS FOR WILD WOMEN by Harris Count Precinct 4 Trails Parks Staff, 9am-10am, [Mercer Botanic Gardens](https://www.mercerbogardens.org). Free. 713-274-4160.

MON., NOV. 16: TREES: PLANTING & CARE (online) by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS , 10:30-11:30am. Free. Houston Communit College event.. Register, hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

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

WED., NOV. 18: FORAGING OF THE KATY PRAIRIE (online event) by DR. MARK 'MERRIWETHER' VORDERBRUGGEN, noon-1pm. Free. Katy Prairie Conservancy event. [Register](https://www.katyprairie.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 do 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!

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at 936-273-1200 or send an e-mail to: lazygardenerandfriends@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 -- 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.

