



Feb-4-2022 | Issue 422

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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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NURSERY SHOPPING CAN BE JUST AS MUCH FUN IF YOU GO WITH AN OPEN MIND!

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

***"You Can't Buy Happiness But You Can Buy Plants
And That's Pretty Much The Same Thing"***

-- The Garden Journal Log Books, Infinityyou

FREEZING TEMPS MAY BE PASSING THROUGH, but here on subtropical Upper Texas Gulf Coast, it won't be long before we're heading to nurseries getting ready for warmer weather which (we hope) is right around the corner.

That will bring us face-to-face with the brutal fact worldwide shortages are going to affect many of our neighborhood nurseries, one of the few safe havens during our continuing pandemic. Home gardens became a "safe" center of life for many of us. And our neighborhood nurseries, as a result, thrived. I can't think of any folks more deserving!

Will this good trend continue? Or will shortages move up once-plant-laden aisles? Few nurseries these days grow their own plants. So pain is being passed up and down the chain. Below, area nursery folk generously share their advice, observations, concerns and predictions.

If your favorite nursery has been a treasured resources in the past, remain a loyal customer through whatever's ahead! For example, almost all who have responded so far note the frustrating scarcity of black plastic growing pots! If you have these stacked up in the garage, ask your neighborhood nurseryman if he could use them!

Some more thoughts from our local nursery folk:

- **BEVERLY WELCH, [The Arbor Gate](#)**, bemoans the fact that *"Many people removed plants that would have been back. Their initial panic, coupled with impatient HOAs, caused a rush on material. Especially mature material."*

Beverly hopes customers realize, *"Those 15-gal shrubs may not be as tall. Some varieties of shrubs even in 3-gal size may not be available until fall."* She urges customers to remain loyal to local nurseries, adding, *"We are always happy to make alternate suggestions. We are always happy to custom order."*

- **SHERRI HARRAH, [Plants for All Seasons](#)** says soaring fuel prices and trucker mandates will translate into shortages for nurseries just as for every other business. They've anticipated this and are stocking up on supplies they know customers will want.
- **JOSHUA KORNEGAY, [Joshua's Native Plants](#)** says his regular Texas suppliers report global costs are sharply rising, halting production and transport of all wholesale supplies, plugs/starter plants from foreign countries (suppliers of many plants we buy). An already-started slowdown was accelerated even before Feb. 2021's hard freeze. Joshua explains, *"... greenhouses caved in from ice accumulation. Backup generators need fuel but fuel was almost at a halt."*

Some species, Joshua added, *"may take years to find again, grown large enough for cuttings . . . Plants destined for sale at a specific target dates were sold months earlier than usual."*

His inventory is still fine, but we should be prepared for some popular plants to be very hard to find, such as giant leopard plant (tractor seat plant, *pictured*), a picky plant started from plugs overseas.



As with the break-out of Covid, smaller, independent nurseries who use local growers may be better off this go-round than larger dealers who rely on huge wholesalers.

All shared the same advice: don't leave the nursery disappointed. Ask for available, suitable substitute plants. Who knows, you may find a lot of new best friends, including hopefully some new natives for your garden.

SPEAKING OF NATIVES — A SILVER LINING?

- **CAROL CHILDRES**, [Nature's Way Resources](#), says since they have been seeing shortages of natives from local growers, *"we have decided to expand our propagation area to include more natives and pollinator plants."* As always, donations of plastic pots and trays are welcome.
- **LINDA KNOWLES**, [Native Plant Society of Texas](#) President, feels statewide most native plant growers are doing ok, have sufficient supplies and local sources of native seeds/cuttings, so aren't troubled by transportation challenges.

Many native plant enthusiasts, like Linda, have experienced difficulty finding plants for so long, they've learned to collect seeds/cutting, to seek out seed/plant swaps nature-oriented organizational sales and to patronize native growers such as [Green Star Wetland Plant Farm](#). Speaking of local group events, be sure to check our calendar below for these upcoming plant sales:

- SAT. FEB. 5: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FRUIT & NUT TREE SALE
- SAT., FEB. 5: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SALE: FRUIT TREES & TOMATOES
- MON., FEB. 7: HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SALE / TOMATO PLANTS
- FRI-SAT., FEB 11-12: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE
- SAT., FEB. 12: FRIENDS OF MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS TOMATO & FRUIT TREE SALE
- SAT., FEB. 12: BRAZORIA MASTER GARDENER CITRUS & FRUIT SALE
- SAT.-SUN, FEB. 19-21 HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SALE/TOMATO PLANTS
- SAT., MAR. 5: BRAZORIA MASTER GARDENER VEGETABLE SEEDLING SALE
- SAT., MAR. 26: BRAZORIA MASTER GARDENER CITRUS SPRING PLANT SALE
- SAT., MAR. 26-APR. 3: NEAR NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT DIST. SPRING PLANT SALE

* * *

TIP O' THE TROWEL TO:

- **PAUL WINSKI**, Harris County Extension Agent - Horticulture, who was awarded Texas A&M AgriLife's Mid-Career Superior Service Award.
- **"VERY PERI,"** Pantone's 2022 Color of The Year, combines "... qualities of blues" with "violet-red undertones that encourage personal inventiveness and creativity." Normally, growers would be introducing new varieties in Pantone's *"Color of the Year."* Not this go-round! Still, *(pictured)* here's 'Purple Cloud,' a "Very Peri"-colored agapanthus.



- **A WINTER DELIGHT - KAREN MCKIBB** couldn't resist bragging on her *(recently photographed)* broccoli, *"blooming quite happily even after two freezes already"* this winter in her "north of Conroe" garden. None of her previous broccoli plants ever proved this hardy. Until now, she didn't even know broccoli bloomed! Hopefully it will survive this past week! And, yes, she did cover it.

* * *

IN OUR SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE BELOW, Houston Botanic Garden Director of Horticulture **FRAN DE LA MOTA** gives us a reality check on the subtropical plants with which we have maybe grown a little TOO comfortable and over-confident when it comes to our increasingly (it seems) cold weather extremes.

Even the most experienced of us should benefit from this brief preview of advice he'll be sharing Tues., Feb. 15, 10am at St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd. in Sugar Land. This Sugar Land Garden Club event is free.

*Brenda Beust Smith's column in the
LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
is based on her 40+ years as Houston Chronicle's Lazy Gardener
Email: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com*

* * *



*L to r, olive (*Olea europaea*), oleander (*Nerium oleander*) and lavender*

CHANGING CLIMATE MAY ALTER OUR MINDSETS ON FAVORITE PLANTS

FRAN DE LA MOTA, PhD

Director of Horticulture

[Houston Botanic Garden](#)

Houston's climate is challenging when it comes to gardening: too hot and humid most of the year, which is problematic, if not inadequate altogether, for many temperate and cold climate plants. As a result, subtropical and tropical plants are a staple of Houston's gardens, thanks to their ability to thrive in Houston's summers. However, Houston's occasional cold event can damage tropical and subtropical plants.

Mediterranean plants are typically grouped in the subtropical plant category, but their tolerance of cold and heat varies greatly depending on species and site conditions. Houstonians include many Mediterranean plants in their gardens, especially Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), olive (*Olea europaea*), oleander (*Nerium oleander*), and several types of lavender (*Lavandula spp.*), among others.

Unfortunately, results are often not very satisfactory due to the vagaries of

Southeast Texas weather. At Houston Botanic Garden, the February 2021 freeze took a toll on some. Was it really the freeze? Many Mediterranean plants can tolerate the low temperatures registered in February 2021, but that is when they have a dry summer and a cool fall, as it is typical in their native environment, preparing them for winter dormancy.

The warm and humid weather often experienced in Houston well into winter promotes continued growth in Mediterranean plants that should otherwise be dormant at that time, turning them too tender to survive a prolonged cold spell.

What are some tips implemented at Houston Botanic Garden to improve winter weather survival of Mediterranean plants?

- Plant as small as you can. This allows for better plant establishment and a lesser rootball/surrounding-soil-texture difference, increasing survival during wet weather. For example, in December 2021 HBG re-planted the lavender garden with rooted cuttings of *Lavandula* × *intermedia* 'Grosso' that were less than a year-old.
- Drainage must be excellent, so planting in a mound in very loose (even gritty) soil is fundamental for plant survival during wet episodes in summer.
- Keep the plant as dry as possible and as sunny as possible in summer.
- No direct sun in winter may increase cold tolerance. Although it may seem counterintuitive, the plants will be less likely to keep growing over balmy winter periods, thus remaining dormant, than if they are in full sun. As such, a northern exposure by a wall that is not too tall may be beneficial. If a wall is not available, a planting bed sloped towards the north may help keep the soil cooler during winter, as well as drain water away during summer.
- Plant in the fall as soon as summer heat recedes, not in spring.

Happy planting!

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Fran de la Mota will share more tips and Houston Botanic Garden news, at a free Sugar Land Garden Club presentation, Tues., Feb. 15, 10am, at St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd. in Sugar Land. sugarlandgardenclub.org.*

* * *

OHBA Organic Horticulture Science Day

Friday, February 11TH • 7:15 AM to 3:45 PM
United Way of Greater Houston | 50 Waugh Dr Houston, TX 77007

Learn the latest in Organic Science, enjoy breakfast, lunch,
education & networking at this fantastic day long event!

Get Certified! All Participants will receive an Organic certificate for completion.

ITINERARY

7:15 - 8AM Registration with Coffee & Tacos

8:00 - 11:45AM Speaker Presentations

11:45AM - 12:30PM Lunch & Networking

12:30 - 3:45PM Speaker Presentations



Mike Serant

INTRO/ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

This lecture will show how, Organics being based on science, is always the most economical & logical approach.

8:00 - 8:30AM



Dr. Lisa Morano

UNDERSTANDING THE SOIL MICROBIAL WORLD

Learn up close and personal the fascinating world of soil microbes, who they are and how they are essential to your success.

8:30-9:30AM



Brian Russ

COWBOY UP YOUR MICROBES

Learn how to get the most out of your 24/7 underground workforce. Real life applications are discussed.

9:30-10:30 AM



Merrie Talley

ORGANIC DESIGN PRINCIPALS

How to design superb landscapes using Organic design principals. It's easy, logical, economical and with outstanding results.

10:45-11:45 AM



Molly Pikarsky

ORGANIC FERTILIZATION & INSTALLATION

How to make your new installs & annual maintenance programs always soar with success, Organically of course!

12:30-1:30 PM



Skip Richter

ORGANIC PEST CONTROL

Organics means less problems, but occasionally they will pop up. Learn the best and safest way to treat them.

1:30-2:30 PM



Dr. Bob Randall

CLIMATE CHANGE ON TEXAS HORTICULTURE

Learn climate change effects on our plants. How to prepare for a changing future.

2:45-3:45 PM

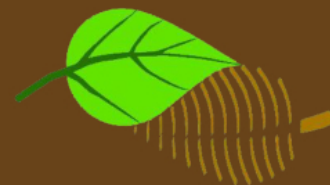
Tickets:
OHBA Members: \$75
Non-Members: \$100

REGISTER HERE: ohbaonline.org/register

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John's Corner



NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND
PLANTS # 182

MINERALS - The Elements and What They Do

Today we continue with our study of all the minerals (elements) in the human body, what they do. See previous newsletters (9/17/21 and 9/24/21) for a list of references and introduction to the Periodic Table.

This week and next week we will conclude our study of the elements found in plants and animals including humans. Today we look at elements 56-65 which are dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium, hafnium, tantalum, and tungsten. Unless one is a scientist you have most likely never heard of some of them. However new research has shown that many of them are linked to longer lifespans in mammals including humans.

66) Dysprosium (Dy) - Dysprosium is a shiny soft silvery metal that can be easily cut and can be machined without creating sparks. In its pure form, it is essentially worthless as it corrodes extremely fast. This rare earth element is found in igneous rocks at 3 ppm, shale at 4-6 ppm, and sandstone at 7.2 ppm while limestone only has 0.9 ppm.

This element is often used in combination with other elements to produce magnets with different properties. Dysprosium iodide (DyI_3) is used to make a red color found in high discharge lighting.

It is used to make extremely strong magnets, powerful beams of light and in nuclear reactors to absorb neutrons.

What little enters the food supply ends up in the bones of mammals at 0.01 ppm.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Dysprosium (Dy)

Plants roots absorb very little dysprosium and there is no published research on how it affects plants.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks, Himalayan Sea salt, re-mineralizer

67) Holmium (Ho) - The earth's crust contains 1.4 ppm of holmium and it is the 56th most abundant element and is 20 times more abundant than silver even though most of us have never heard of it.

Of the rare earth elements, holmium's value is for its unique property called the "magnetic moment" and has the highest value of any element. This means when placed in a magnetic field, the holmium atoms line up and concentrate the magnetic field making it more intense. This element is used in MRI machines because of this effect as it makes extremely strong magnets. Lasers used in eye-surgery use holmium as one the ingredients. Similar to other rare earth elements holmium is also used in making glass to give different colors often in the form holmium chloride ($HoCl_3$).

Scientists in Switzerland are using holmium atoms on a magnesium oxide surface to make the first single atom, data storage device. The atoms magnetic field is the zero or one of a data bit. The best hard drive data storage technology today requires over 10,000 atoms to store one bit of data. (Science

News, April 15, 2017).

The exact effect of holmium on humans is unknown. However, laboratory studies have shown that it stimulates metabolism. Plants do not readily absorb holmium hence very little gets into the food chain. Vegetables that were tested have less than 0.1 ppb.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Holmium (Ho)

Carya species can accumulate up to 16 ppm of this element.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks, re-mineralizer.

68) Erbium (Er) - Erbium is another member of the rare earth family of elements. It is found in igneous rocks at 2.8 ppm, shale at 1.9 ppm, and sandstone at 1 ppm.

It is used in making special lasers used in dentistry to strip stain off tooth enamel. Erbium is also used in MRI equipment along with other rare earth elements and in nuclear reactors to absorb neutrons. A recent use of erbium is in communications systems where it can amplify a pulse of light in optical cables (fiber optics).

Erbium is used in making glass and ceramics as it gives it a soft pink color. Normally when we add energy to something the temperature will rise, however when erbium is added to glass and energy from a laser is shined on it, it gets cooler!

Erbium has no known biological role. However, as in other of the rare earth elements erbium salts have been shown to stimulate metabolism. Marine and land animals have very small amounts in their bones.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Erbium (Er)

Carya species can accumulate up to 46 ppm of this element.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks, re-mineralizer.

69) Thulium (Tm) -Thulium occurs in the earth's crust at 0.5 ppm and is the 61st most abundant element.

Thulium is used in crystal matrices to make quantum memory devices and it is used to create a strong green light in many optical devices.

Thulium has no known biological role. However, as in other of the rare earth elements, thulium salts have been shown to stimulate metabolism. When thulium is added to calcium sulfate, it will fluorescence when exposed to very low radiation levels.

Vegetables have less than 1 ppb of thulium. Marine and land animals have very small amounts in their bones.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Thulium (Tm)

There are no known effects of this element on plants.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks, re-mineralizer.

70) **Ytterbium (Yb)** - A soft silvery white metal that is slowly oxidized by air and reacts slowly with water. It is a member of the rare earth elements but twice as common as tin.

Found in igneous rocks at 3 ppm, shale at 1.9 ppm, sandstone at 1.3 ppm, and very little in land plants or animals.

Used as a doping agent in lasers where it creates color centers that store energy and it is found in many memory devices. The compound ytterbium bromide is used in the lighting industry.

It has no known biological role; however, ytterbium salts stimulate metabolism. In rodent studies, 14% of ingested ytterbium by the mother is transferred to the newborn mice.

It is not absorbed readily by plant roots, hence very little gets into the food supply.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Ytterbium (Yb)

Vegetables can have 0.08 ppb of ytterbium but some lichens can absorb 900 ppb.

None

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks, some coals have 170 ppm, re-mineralizer

71) **Lutetium (Lu)** - Originally called Lutecium but changed to Lutetium by international agreement. Lutetium is the last of the lanthanide series of rare earths and is the densest and hardest of this group. It is another of the rare earth series that is found in igneous rocks at 0.5 ppm, shale at 0.33 ppm, and very little in sandstone or limestone. There is very little lutetium found in marine or land animals.

Lutetium is a silvery white metal that is the costliest element in the world even though it is more common than silver. It often occurs in the ore monazite and it is used as a catalyst in cracking, alkylation, and polymerization in many industrial processes.

No known biological role, however ytterbium salts stimulate metabolism. The highest amounts are in our bones with some found in our livers and kidneys.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Lutetium (Lu)

Members of the *Carya* species can accumulate up to 4.5 ppm

None

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks, re-mineralizer

72) Hafnium (Hf) - Hafnium is a lustrous silvery metal that is ductile and resists corrosion. Powdered hafnium will burn in air and is resistant to most acids.

Hafnium is found in igneous rocks at 3 ppm, shale at 2.8 ppm, sandstones at 3.4 ppm and only 0.3 ppm in limestone. Soils average around 3 ppm of hafnium while almost none is found in seawater.

It is used in electric plasma torches to cut steel and can be anodized into attractive colors.

No known biological role

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Hafnium (Hf)

Hafnium has no known biological role in plants even though plants have 0.01-0.4 ppm of hafnium depending on the soil they were grown. Some marine plants will accumulate 10 ppm in their tissues.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks, sewage sludge at 3 ppm, re-mineralizer.

73) Tantalum (Ta) - Tantalum is a silvery shiny soft metal that is found in igneous rocks at 2 ppm, shale at 0.8 ppm, sandstone and limestone at 0.05 ppm and extremely little in seawater at 0.0000025 ppm. However, marine animals accumulate up to 410 ppm.

Virtually every modern electronic device from cell phones to TVs to computers used tantalum capacitors in its circuits. Tantalum is almost impervious to chemical attack and resists corrosion; hence it is used in surgery implants from plates for skull fractures to bolts to fasten broken bones.

Tantalum carbide is harder than diamonds. It has a very high melting point of 6,760 °F (3,738 °C) where it is used in special cutting tools.

Tantalum has no known biological role and appears to be non-toxic.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Tantalum (Ta)

None

Found in plants at less than 5 ppb.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks, re-mineralizer

74) Tungsten (W) – Tungsten is found in igneous rocks at 1.5 ppm, shale at 1.8 ppm, sandstone at 1.6 ppm and limestone at 0.6 ppm and soils at 1 ppm. Seawater has very little tungsten in it at 0.0001 ppm, but marine plants have

0.35 ppm. There is very little tungsten in land animals (0.005 ppm) where it is found in the heart muscle and our teeth.

Tungsten is a lustrous silvery-white metal and is the strongest metal at very high temperatures and it is very inexpensive. However, it has the same density as gold hence commonly used to make gold plated ingots (fake gold).

Tungsten carbide is used in cutting tools and in items that need to stay sharp, it is much harder than steel and does not fracture like diamonds. Due to its hardness, it is used in armor piercing bullets and to replace lead in shotgun shells.

Other uses include; used like lead in radiation shielding, used in special welding electrodes and used in incandescent light bulbs.
In humans, tungsten is found in our bones and in our spleen.

Gardening and Landscaping Problems Associated with Tungsten (W)

Required by some bacteria to live and grow. They contain an enzyme, which incorporates tungsten that can reduce carboxylic acid molecule to an aldehyde.

Tungsten has similar chemical properties as molybdenum (Mo) and has been found to substitute for molybdenum (Mo) in several microbial enzymes.

Plants can absorb tungsten from the soil and some trees can have 100 ppm. The species *Pinus sibiricus* is an accumulator plant.

Watering with a sodium tungstate (Na_2WO_4) solution, increases the growth and yield of grapes and alfalfa. Barley has been found to absorb tungsten when it was applied to a soil.

Sources: mineral sands of igneous rocks, fly ash from burning coal, sewage sludge, re-mineralizer.

* * *

NWR NOW CARRIES SEEDS FROM

NATIVE AMERICAN SEED COMPANY

\$3.00 EACH !

**LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS
HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER
CALENDAR EVENTS**

SUBMITTING EVENTS? PLEASE READ!

- Only events submitted specifically for LG&F calendar are used
- Put sponsor's **FULL** name in email subject.
- Very long links will be shortened, but full link activated when clicked
- Submit events to: lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com

EVENTS ARE ON-SITE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

***--- COVID IS IMPACTING ON-SITE GARDENING EVENTS ---
CONFIRM TO MAKE SURE ON-SITE EVENTS HAVEN'T BEEN CANCELLED
OR SWITCHED TO VIRTUAL. SOME MAY REQUIRE MASKS. GO PREPARED!***

FRI., FEB. 4 GARDEN CRUISIN': TOUR DE 4 9am & 11am, [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#), 22306 Aldine-Westfield. Free. Ages 60+ or anyone age 12+ with mobility needs. Register: 713-274-4160.

SAT., FEB. 5: BACKYARD COMPOST CLASS by **THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP**, 10-11am. Free. 8203 Millennium Forest Dr., The Woodlands. Free. thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/Calendar

SAT. FEB. 5: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FRUIT & NUT TREE SALE. Presentation 8am, sale 9-Noon, Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Plant list: mcmga.square.site. 936-539-7824

WED., FEB. 9: TREE-RIFIC VOLUNTEERS, 9am, Horticultural Propagation Center. Free. Register: [Mercer Botanic Gardens](#). 281-353-8100.

THURS., FEB. 10: HOUSTON ROSE SOCIETY FEBRUARY PRUNING PARTY(virtual), 7-9pm, Free. Link: houstonrose.org/

FRI-SAT., FEB 11-12: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE. Online only. Browse: Fri, Jan 4. Shop: Noon Fri to Noon Sat. store.galvestonmg.org

SAT., FEB.12: URBAN GARDENING AND AFRICAN AMERICAN TRADITIONS FROM THE GARDEN by **TERRY GARNER AND CHEF NADIA AHMED**, 9am -12pm, Palm Center Garden. urbanharvest.org/education

SAT., FEB.12: GROWING FRUIT TREES IN SMALL SPACES: SPRING PREPARATION (Zoom) by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30am. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

SAT., FEB. 12: FRIENDS OF MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS TOMATO & FRUIT TREE SALE (virtual), 8am-8pm, Inventory: [Friends of Mercer Botanic Gardens](#); 713-274-4166.

SAT., FEB. 12: BRAZORIA MASTER GARDENER CITRUS & FRUIT SALE (no cash sales), 9am-noon, Angleton Fairgrounds, 901 South Downing, Angleton. txmg.org/brazoria/. 979-864-1558

MON., FEB. 14: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, virtual, 10-11:30am, Free. With Houston Community College. Register: hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

TUES., FEB. 15: HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN by **FRAN DE LA MOTA**, 10am, St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Rd, Sugar Land. Free. sugarlandgardenclub.org.

MON., FEB. 15: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, virtual, 11am-noon, Free. With Harris County Public Library. hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

WED., FEB. 16: 2022 NANCY STALLWORTH THOMAS HORTICULTURE LECTURE: NATURE'S BEST HOPE TO CONSERVATION THAT STARTS IN YOUR YARD by **DR. DOUG TALLAMY**, 10am, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Rd. Free. Garden Club of Houston event. gchouston.org

WED., FEB. 16: MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION, 6-7pm., Timber Lane Community Center. Free. Register: hcp4.net/parks/mercer/events/required. 713-274-4160.

THU., FEB. 17: CULTURAL CONNECTIONS- HISTORIC LAND THEN AND NOW (Zoom) by **BILLY LAWTON**, 6-7:30 pm. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

FRI., FEB. 18: GARDEN CRUISIN': TOUR DE 4, 9am & 11am, [Mercer Botanic Gardens](http://MercerBotanicGardens). Free. Ages 60+ or anyone age 12+ with mobility needs. Register: hcp4.net/parks/mercer/events/. 713-274-4160.

SAT., FEB 19: SPRING VEGETABLE GARDEN CLASS (virtual) by **THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP**, 9am-noon. Free. Online. Register: thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=9233

SAT., FEB 19: INVASIVE SPECIES TRAINING by **THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP**, 8:30am-3:30pm. The Woodlands Emergency Training Center. Register: thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=9217

MON., FEB. 21: GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN OPEN GARDEN DAY, 8:30-11AM, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Road. Free. Plant sale. hcmga.tamu.edu/shop/

WED., FEB. 23: TREE-RIFIC VOLUNTEERS, 9am. Mercer Botanic Gardens Horticultural Propagation Center. Free. Register: [Mercer Botanic Gardens](http://MercerBotanicGardens). 281-353-8100.

SAT., MAR. 5: BRAZORIA MASTER GARDENER VEGETABLE SEEDLING SALE, 9am - NOON (no cash sales), Brazoria Environmental Education Station, 583 CR 443, Angleton. txmg.org/brazoria/, 979-864-1558

FRI., MAR. 11: THINGS I WISH I HAD LEARNED SOONER by **BAXTER & PATSY WILLIAMS**, 10AM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman St., Free. Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

SAT., MAR. 19: THE JOHN FAIREY GARDEN BUDDING OUT PLANT SALE & FESTIVAL, 10am-4pm, 20559 FM 259 Rd., Hempstead. 979-826-3232

SAT., MAR. 26: BRAZORIA MASTER GARDENER CITRUS SPRING PLANT SALE, 9am - NOON (no cash sales), Brazoria Environmental Education Station, 583 CR 443, Angleton. txmg.org/brazoria/, 979-864-1558

SAT., MAR. 26, HERB FESTIVAL AT THE WYNNE HOME 8am-2pm. Wynne Home Arts Center, 1428 11th St., Huntsville Thyme Unit, The Herb Society of America event. texasthymeunit.org; 936-891-5024

SAT., MAR. 26-APR. 3: NEAR NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT DISTRICT VIRTUAL SPRING PLANT SALE, Presentation by **HEIDI SHEESLEY**, White Oak Conference Center. Pickup: Treeseach Farms. Details: nnmd.org

FRI., APRIL 14: MAKE GARDENING EASIER by **DR. JOSEPH R. NOVAK**, 10am Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman, Houston. Federation of Garden Clubs event. Free. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

SAT. APR. 30: BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON SPRING BROMELIAD SALE, 9am-4pm, Metropolitan Multi-services Center, 1475 W. Gray. Free. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

FRI. MAY 13: NATURE'S BURIAL, LEAVING A NATURAL LANDSCAPE AS YOUR LEGACY, by **THE KATY PRAIRIE CONSERVANCY**, 10am, Trinity Episcopal Church. 1015 Holman. Free. Federation of Garden Clubs event. houstonfederationgardenclubs.org.

SAT.-SUN., MAY 21-22: BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON ANNUAL SHOW-SALE, 9am-5pm Sat.; 11am-4pm Sun., Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive. bromeliadsocietyhouston.org

— **Check contacts for changes and/or masking policies** —

NOTE! Only events submitted specifically for this calendar publication will be used. We do not pick up events from other newsletter or mass emails. Links will be fully linked if clicked but word-shortened if too long.

* * *



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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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-project to reporting, 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 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.

