

July-1-2022 | Issue 442

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<u>Nature's Way Resources</u> 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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RAIN DANCES, BOG GARDENS & BEST-YET-TO-COME TOMATOES

The rain to the wind said, / 'You push and I'll pelt.' They so smote the garden bed, / that the flowers actually knelt, And lay lodged - though not dead. / I know how the flowers felt.

"The Poems of Robert Frost" -- Robert Frost(1874-1963)

By BRENDA BEUST SMITH

A FRIEND ASKED EARLIER THIS WEEK IF I am doing rain dances in my yard? No. Did get one heavy downpour. Lasted 3 minutes. But that got me curious about rain dances American Indians did (and still do). Turns out Sherman Joseph Alexie Jr., a Spokane-Coeur d'Alene-Native American writer, poet and filmmaker, is widely quoted on this subject:

"Do you know why the Indian Rain Dances always worked? Because the Indians would keep dancing until it rained."

I hope you . . .

1. ... got rain this past week (or longer than 3 minutes!)

- 2. . . . get more rain this weekend
- 3. . . . watered your most precious plants**BEFORE** it rained on them.

Why water before it rains? It's a matter of physics, forces of adhesion and cohesion. As water moves through soil, it gets bound to, or repelled by, soil particles. During droughts, to protect what precious little moisture they do have have, soil's microbiotic babes create a hard, dry, covering topcrust.

Water softens this topcrust, but that takes time and in the process, initial excess water runs off to other areas. If you want rain to go straight to treasured plants' roots (and not to adjacent weed roots), water just at the base, where stalks/trunk meets soil, BEFORE rain starts to fall. Gardeners of old may not have known exactly why this helps, but they knew it worked.

PS: I always run any soil mention first by John Ferguson for confirmation! His response : "Looks good, only do add that cheap, low quality mulches also form crusts or grow 'dog puke fungus' — both of which repel water."

"DOG PUKE FUNGUS?" I'll let A&M specialists explain this one! Click here: <u>Fact sheets on slime-mold</u>. But do water before rain after a drought period!

SHOULD ALL PLANTS BE CUT BACK AFTER

BLOOMING? NO! You need to research individual plants. For example, Berny Bowman in Porter is thrilled with his montbretia (*Crocosmia*, *pictured*), blooming beautifully with very little watering. (Mine too!) Should he cut back stalks that have bloomed out?



No! As with many bulbs, it's ok to remove spent flowers. But montbretia corms need the naturally-

fading, existing sword-like foliage to replenish themselves for next year's blooms. The fading foliage can be removed in November. But not before if you want beautiful flowers this time next year.

(Back in the "old days," I remember the late-Sally McQueen Squire advising gardeners, after daffodils fade, to "braid" their foliage, then roll it up into <u>secure</u> "bundles" so it wouldn't look messy as it naturally dies back! I never knew anyone besides Sally who actually did that.)

Montbretia (*Crocosmia*) have only one drawback, they're "lazy." (*No wonder they like me!*). When they multiply too quickly, these Iris Family members tend to fall over and need help standing up straight.

Two solutions: They don't like to be overcrowded. Dig up and replant farther apart. Easier: "fence" them in (my choice). Montbretia can be ordered on the Garden Club of Houston's Oct. 14-15 <u>2022 Bulb & Plant Mart's now open online-ordering inventory</u>.

* * *



Now known more as Rain Gardens, thisBOG GARDEN 20' x 8' design was developed with the help of Anita Nelson <u>(Nelson's Water Gardens)</u> for the Lazy Gardener's Guide (2003 edition, page 43). Left side is full sun, right side full shade, middle plants okay in part sun/part shade.

SAVING PRECIOUS WATER — **HENRY COMMACK** in Magnolia asked if the Bog Garden design (above) is still a good idea for our area? Yes, more than ever. We all have or will have cracked sidewalks, driveways, walls and foundations as well as doors & cabinets that don't close tight anymore.

The main problem is subsidence. Depletion of subsoil water reserves is being triggered less by drought (we still have monsoons) and more by too much rainwater forced by man's intervention to run off home properties instead of soaking down into soil the way Nature intended.

Smart homeowners help subsoil reserves by landscaping so rainwater safely and conveniently soaks in and down instead of running off. One proven effective method: a (*rain*) bog garden that helps keep deep subsoil reserves adequate for our regular drought periods, directing tree/plant roots downward where they are less likely to suffer during droughts and helping to protect our home foundations from cracks, settling, etc. This garden can be as large, or as small as you want. The whole point is to use that spot where water stands anyway to replenish your subsoil reservoirs. How to do this?



NOTE: My yard is a virtual rollercoaster of levels. In my low spots, L-R, cannas, crinums, giant white spider lilies (Hymenocallis) and Louisiana iris are a few of the thriving flowers.)

A BOG/RAIN GARDEN DESIGN

(THIS TEXT below is excerpted from The Lazy Gardener's Guide, 2003 edition, page 43)

It's a win-win situation. A naturally low spot, where water stands or collects during a heavy rain is ideal.

It is NOT a mosquito breeding ground because there is no standing water (except temporarily during actual rains). Rain water automatically flows into this low area from the rest of the yard (making adjacent beds healthier) and is absorbed by deep soil levels. You can go one of 2 routes:

- Dig the area (if necessary) to make it 8-15" below ground level. Fill half full with pea gravel and/or rocks plus very coarse mulch. Plant into the mulch/rock level. The soil normally attached to nursery-grown plants will mix with this mulch layer, providing sufficient growing medium to encourage downward growth of roots to get to moist soil. Fill to top with leaves, pine needles and/or a very coarse mulch.
- (Lazy way) Plant right into the existing low spot. Fill with leaves, needles or a coarse mulch. These beds may have to be watered to get the plants started and during extreme drought periods. But the more mulch you use on top, the more moist underneath soil levels will stay during the summer.

Rain Gardens can be as sophisticated as you want — or as simple as throwing cannas, crinums, LA iris or ruellia into a low area that now takes forever to dry out after a rain. These will usually root without "planting," love this "difficult" situation and discourage mosquitoes from depositing eggs.

In a rain garden, the center will and should be the most moist. Edges are a better area for experimenting with regular garden plants. Lobelia (cardinal flower) and creeping jenny often do better on a bog edge than they do in regular gardens. If you have a natural edge pond, consider expanding the sides to create a Bog Garden border! In either case, these plant roots will help make/keep lower soil levels porous so rainwater will flow way down.

This garden above was designed with the help of Anita Nelson of Nelson Water Gardens with more plants than you will probably want. But this gives you a selection of very common ones that should be easy to find. Once established, this garden should be carefree. Unless, that is, some decide they like you TOO much! There is a whole world out there of Gulf Coast-hardy "bog or swamp plants" that would also work in this yard.

NOTE: *The Lazy Gardener's Guide* (2003 *Edition*) is no longer available for sale. A free pdf (with additional information on this garden) can be requested at *lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com*.

* * *

POTPOURRI:

 AS PROMISED: GETTING READY FOR FALL TOMATOES / HOW TO GET A JUMP START! In our Spotlight Article below, Urban Harvest's MEG TAPP sympathizes with gardeners who



have had less-than-thrilling tomato crops this year. She is sharing a preview of tips she'll offer at Urban Harvest's **Sat., July 16: "Starting Fall Tomatoes — All You Need to Know!",** 10-11:30am, at Urban Harvest Headquarters, 3302 Canal St., \$20. Register: <u>urbanharvest.org/stec_event/starting-fall-tomatoes-all-you-need-to-know/</u>

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



Lazy Gardener and Friends Newsletter



DISAPPOINTING TOMATO CROP? BEST IS YET TO COME!

By **MEAGAN TERRY** URBAN HARVEST CLASS COORDINATOR <u>www.urbanharvest.org</u>

Our tomato season has been cut short, thanks to the heat wave. Usually we can produce up until July 4. Not this year! Once it is this hot, tomatoes won't set fruit any longer. The best we can do is keep an eye on any fruit that has already set. Take care of it until it is ready to pick and prepare for the fall tomato season! Tomatoes can be started from seed now. Two options:

• **TABLE TOP HYDROPONIC GROW KITS** with pods work really well. The main issue: Do not damage the roots when transplanting them from the hydroponic set up to a pot.

Once the sprouts emerge and have true leaves, check the roots to see how big they are. Transplant them when roots are clearly visible but before a huge mass of roots has grown. If you wait too long, the roots get tangled in the little cages that hold the grow pods. • PLASTIC POTS AND GROW LIGHTS Tomatoes are pretty reliable grown from seed. To start indoors in pots, essential is a very fast draining seed starting mix. Fill the pots with mix and poke two holes with your finger or a chopstick in each pot (an inch deep). Put 2 tomato seeds in each hole, so that is 4 seeds per small plastic pot. Cover the seeds with a little more of the seed starting mix and tamp it down just a little so that the seeds and the soil are touching – you want to get rid of the air pockets. Then gently water that in and keep moist for about a week. You can cover that with plastic wrap to help keep the moisture in.

You don't need to worry about light at this stage. Once sprouts appear, remove the wrap and put the pots under a grow light. A grow light set up can be as simple as a plant light bulb from the hardware store in a clamp-on can light.

Once they are up and growing, keep them moist but not soggy and choose the strongest one in each pot and cut off the others. The strong one is your one and only now. These will be ready to go into the ground or outside in a pot during our fall tomato planting time in August/September.



Determinate varieties include, I to r, Celebrity (slicer), Ace 55 (slicer) and Tiny Tom (cherry type)



Indeterminate varieties include, I to r, Yellow Pear (small fruits), Sweet One-Million (even smaller fruits), and Druzba (slicer)

INDETERMINATE VS DETERMINATE TOMATOES If you are new to growing tomatoes or working with a small space, determinate tomatoes are better for your situation. On the seed pack, it will either say "indeterminate" or "determinate" – so read carefully before you buy.

Another thing to look for, when selecting seeds, is "Days to Maturity." As you might have guessed, that is the days that it takes to bear fruit. For our hot climate, you want to choose a variety with a short DtM – something in the 50 to 70 day range.

There are so many varieties from which to choose; narrowing it down to determinate and short season varieties will help you decide what type to try. If you have the space and can deal with the lankiness of the indeterminate types, that's an option.

Determinate varieties that I like include Celebrity (slicer), Ace 55 (slicer) and Tiny Tom (cherry type) and Indeterminate varieties include Yellow Pear (small fruits), Sweet One-Million (even smaller fruits), and Druzba (slicer). All our local nurseries have tomato seeds available and usually have plants ready to transplant by early September. Online sources are: Burpee, Park Seed, Eden Brothers, and Johnny's Seeds.

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: Don't miss Meg Tapps' "Starting Fall Tomatoes — All You Need to Know!" 10-11:30am, \$20. Urban Harvest event. Meg will elaborate on tips above and more, including preparing beds and maintaining production through winter! Register: <u>urbanharvest.org/stec_event/starting-fall-</u> tomatoes-all-you-need-to-know/

* * *



John's Corner

NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 202

Bio-Solids or Sewage Sludge Revealed Part 2 of 4

First, what is biosolids? Biosolids is the *marketing name* given to the toxic sewage sludge cake produced from waste water treatment plants. It was coined by public relations firms to make toxic sewage sludge sound benign and even friendly. Remember: *Biosolids* = *Sewage Sludge*

Since Dr. Caroline Snyder wrote the last article there has been a lot of additional research published and material discovered on the dangers of sewage sludge (biosolids). Let us look at some of the new information that has become available that we will not hear about in the media.

Let's look at PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances), these are the 'forever chemicals' found in 99% of Americans".

Hundreds of everyday products are made with highly toxic fluorinated chemicals called PFAS. They build up in our bodies and never break down in the environment. Very small doses of PFAS have been linked to cancer, reproductive and immune system harm, and other diseases.

For decades, chemical companies covered up evidence of PFAS' health hazards. Today nearly all Americans, including newborn babies, have PFAS in their blood, and more than 200 million people may be drinking PFAS-tainted

water. What began as a <u>"miracle of modern chemistry</u>" is now a national crisis.

PFAS get in our bodies from many sources and end up in our sewage sludge. When the toxic sludge is used, from land application or in compost, these chemicals build up in the soil. Our vegetable crops absorb them and they become concentrated in our bodies when we eat the vegetables.



Let's look at a simple example of how something common can cause problems in sewage sludge. There are hundreds of scientific reports on the dangers of artificial sweeteners from how they destroy the human enzyme system, to causing cancer, to causing weight gain. If they make it to the soil, they also cause significant harm.

Hence, another issue has emerged dealing with artificial sweeteners that they pass-through one's digestive system into the sewage sludge or waste water (purple pipe). These chemicals in the artificial sweeteners can cause good microbes in the soil to turn toxic (or become pathogenic) when the sludge itself, compost made from the biosolids, or waste water from the dewatering of the sewage sludge is applied to the soil.

This very similar to what was discussed in our newsletter where I recently talked about how a good yeast (fungi) *Candida albicans* becomes pathogenic. This fungus is all around us, in the soils, in the air we breathe, and lives in our digestive tract. The paper found it exists in two forms, one that is harmless and one that can kill you. Chemicals in the environment turn it into a pathogen.

Another new issue has emerged with sewage sludge (biosolids) in recent

years, is that it now contains radioactive isotopes from both medicine and industry that bio-accumulate in the sludge. Radioactive compounds are regularly used in cancer treatment and in many industrial applications. These radioactive compounds cause DNA damage and increase the cellular damage from natural gamma radiation.

In addition, there are now many petrochemical derivatives in the sewage sludge and over *80,000 different chemicals* have been identified. *There has been NO testing on how they interact.* Compost made from the sewage sludge like "Dillo Dirt" or fertilizer pellets like "Milorganite or Houactinite" (dried and pelletized sewage sludge) contain chemicals that cause many health problems from birth defects to cancer. Additionally, over two dozen human pathogens can survive the standard waste water treatment process.

Note: The Dr. Mercola's health e-newsletter had a recent article on this issue and it can be found at: <u>https://www.organicconsumers.org/news/toxic-sewage-sludge-your-food</u>

Antibiotic resistance is an issue causing more and more problems in our society today and now killing thousands of people every year. Antibiotics are fed to animals to make them grow faster and keep them alive from the unhealthy conditions of our factory farms. Medical doctors increasingly prescribe antibiotics to their patients for any cause. Hence, pathogens with antibiotic resistant genes are excreted in the manure (human or animal). These antibiotic resistant genes can be transferred back to the environment and pose a serious threat to public health.

Biosolid composting is only required to reach a temperature of 55° C (131⁰ F) for a few days. However, it takes a temperature of 90° C (194⁰ F) to kill these antibiotic resistant bacteria and destroy the genes. When one land applies sewage sludge (biosolids) or compost made from biosolids, these dangerous genes and bacteria are released back into the environment. Journal of Environmental Science and Technology, 2017.

The University of North Carolina found that over half the people living within one-half mile of a sewage sludge land application site developed acute physical symptoms. These included eye, nose, and throat irritations, gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting and diarrhea). Other people experienced coughing, difficulty breathing, sinus congestion or drainage, and skin infections or sores.

Research from The University of Birmingham and the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research has found high levels of antibiotic resistance genes in surface water exposed to sewage sludge and in in sewage sludge. Journal mSystems, (2021)

In one study a farmer began to lose his milk cows after applying biosolids to his pastures. It turns out the sludge was contaminated with the element Thallium (Ti) which is the active ingredient in rat poisoning. This toxic metal is also used in the production of the artificial sweetener NutraSweet.

Mineral imbalances in the soil can be caused by biosolid applications. A few examples are:

Researchers recently found that there is another reason to avoid biosolids or compost from biosolids as they cause mineral imbalances in the soil. One of the issues is that the repeated use of biosolids leads to an excess of copper in our soils and when this occurs, the symptoms we see in our plants resembles an iron (Fe) deficiency. Hence, if we add iron, we make the soil problems worse.

Other sewage sludges have been found to contain lead, dioxins and asbestos. It just depends on what industries are dumping into the sewer systems.

It gets worse when using biosolids that are often high in manganese (Mn). When there is too much manganese in our soil, the activity of required enzymes and hormones in plants are reduced. With excess manganese in the soil, many legumes will no longer fix nitrogen into the soil. High levels of manganese prevent plants from absorbing and using calcium (Ca) efficiently, which leads to a calcium deficiency in plants. This deficiency in turn, increases the insect and disease problems a gardener will encounter. High levels of manganese also stunt the growth of many plant species like Pines.

High levels of zinc (Zn) are often found in sewage sludge (131-1,670 ppm). In soils, levels of zinc over 500 ppm are known to prevent plants from absorbing other critical elements which lead to many long-term problems. Many plant species have been shown to accumulate zinc in their tissues to the point of death. Once the soil has been contaminated by excess elements (or toxins) it is very costly to fix the problems and takes a very long time.

High levels of Phosphorous (P) are commonly found in sewage sludge. When applied to the soil, excess phosphorus occurs. When there are too much phosphorous in the soil, mycorrhizal fungi that are essential for a plant's health will not colonize plant roots.

Another new problem that occurs when biosolids are applied to the soil is that many plants suffer, even with low level exposure. The drugs (pharmaceuticals) left over in the sludge interferes with plant hormones that support the plants defense mechanisms against predators and diseases, thus increasing the problems.

They also reduce a plant's ability to absorb energy from sunlight and in some cases even caused a reduced level of chlorophyll due to too much magnesium (Mg) since sewage sludge has magnesium in it. At higher levels plants can experience stunted roots and burnt edges of leaves. The chemicals caused many plants to absorb so many elements that they were essentially poisoning the plants.

There are 27 toxic heavy metals known to cause health problems. However, the EPA only monitors 9 of the 27 toxic heavy metals. There are over 352 toxic chemical pollutants that have been identified in the sewage sludge, including pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and solvents. Of these 61 are listed as hazardous materials with known human health effects.

Some of these include hormones (including those used in birth control pills), fire retardants, plasticizers, PCP's, dioxins, PFH's, etc. Other chemicals in sewage sludge are medicines from anti-depressants to steroids, detergents, fragrances, disinfectants like triclosan, antibiotics, hormones like estrogen,

PCB's (poly chlorinated biphenyls), asbestos (two thirds of the sludges tested), pesticides, heavy metals (arsenic, mercury, lead, nickel, cadmium), dioxins, naphthalene, and other POP (persistent organic pollutants).

Industry has manipulated the system to allow each company to dump 33 pounds of hazardous waste per month into the sewer without having to report it. The amount and type of toxics in sludge depends on the source and the treatment it has received.

Researchers at the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology have found an association between esophageal cancer in people living in areas where soils have lead (Pb) in them. Lung cancers are higher in areas that have excess copper in them. Brain tumors are more common with soils that have arsenic in them. Bladder cancer is associated with soils with high cadmium levels. Journal of Environmental Geochemistry and Health, 2017; 40 (1): 283. **All** of these toxic and dangerous heavy metals are found in sewage sludge and they are not removed by pelletizing or by composting, or by changing the name from sewage sludge to "Biosolids".

In 2014 the United States Geological Survey analyzed nine different consumer products containing biosolids as a main ingredient, for 87 different chemicals found in cleaners, personal care products, pharmaceuticals, and other products. These analyses detected 55 of the 87 chemicals measured in at least one of the nine biosolid samples, with as many as 45 chemicals found in a single sample.

In 2014, the City of Charlotte discovered extreme levels of PCB's in their biosolids after being alerted by SCDHEC that illegal PCB dumping was taking place at regional waste water treatment plants across the state. Biosolids land application was halted after an emergency regulation was enacted by SCDHEC that outlawed any PCB contaminated biosolids from being land applied regardless if Class A or Class B. Very soon thereafter, SCDHEC expanded PCB fish consumption advisories for nearly every waterway bordering biosolids land application fields.

The most recent discovers of dangerous materials in biosolids is nano-particles that have showed up in the last few years. Health effects from these items are just beginning to be studied. These particles get into our lungs and other bodily tissue where they are linked to increased health issues.

The current EPA regulations are outdated and no longer protect the public. Many of the diseases and illnesses reported in the media over the last few years (food recalls) have come from conventional crops fertilized with sewage sludge. This is another reason to buy organic produce as sewage sludge is not allowed to be used.

Warning signs that a product contains sewage sludge or sewage sludge compost are the following Buzz words (the producers rarely tell you the truth or consumers would not purchase it):

Natural organic nitrogen Naturally grows plants Recycling symbol on the bags Pictures of a mother and child or beautiful flowers A big seal from some certifying agency Meets strict EPA standards EPA's exceptional quality compost (means it is sewage sludge)

Note: The Biosludged full movie launched Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018: See trailer 2 below, and prepare to be shocked



Your world is being deliberately mass poisoned with toxic sewage sludge that's dumped on forests, food crops, city parks and landscapes and on landscape maintenance of public-school grounds. A massive, coordinated cover-up has been in place for years, making sure you never learn the truth about this deliberate environmental poisoning that's spreading toxins everywhere. Two years in the making, the Biosludge film launched Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018, at <u>Biosludged.com</u> and <u>BrighteonFilms.com</u>. You can watch the full film for free, and you'll also be able to download the film's video file and post the full video to your own video channels. The full film is closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Other Resources:

- <u>www.biosludge.news</u>
- www.BrighteonFilms.com
- <u>www.Biosludged.com</u>
- www.SourceWatch.org
- www.NaturalNews.com

The book "Toxic Sludge Is Good For

You", by John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton, 1995, Common Courage Press, ISBN: 1-56751-060-4, is about the public relations industry and how they try to green wash the risk factors of sewage sludge and compost made from sewage sludge.



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LAZY GARDENER & FRIENDS HOUSTON GARDEN NEWSLETTER CALENDAR EVENTS

SUBMITTING EVENTS? PLEASE READ!

- Only events submitted specifically to LG&F calendar are used
- Use our exact format, type into email, no pdfs/jpgs/flyers
- 3 lines max per entry. We will edit down if you don't.
- Too long links activated by word "Details."
- Submit: <u>lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com</u>. Check your published entry! EVENTS ARE ON-SITE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

THURS., JULY 7: IDENTIFYING PEST & DISEASE ISSUES IN THE GARDEN (virtual) by PAUL WINSKI, 10am, Free. Harris County Master Gardener event. Register: <u>homegrown2022.eventbrite.com</u>

SAT., JULY 9: LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION (Zoom)by ANGELA

CHANDLER, 9:30-11:30am. Urban Harvest event. <u>urbanharvest.org/education/classes/</u>

SAT., JULY 9: POLLINATORS & THEIR FAVORITE PLANTS by MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 9-11am, Texas AgriLife Extension Office 9020 Airport Rd. Conroe. 936-539-7824, <u>MCMGA.com</u>

MON., JULY 11, FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING (virtual) by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 10-11:30am. Free. Houston Community College event. Register: <u>hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops</u>

TUES., JULY 12: GROWING PLUMERIAS, (Zoom & in-person), 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. *theplumeriasociety.org*; 281-796-7185

TUES., JULY 12: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR URBAN GARDENERS (Zoom) by NATHAN HERMOND, 7-8pm. Urban Harvest event. <u>urbanharvest.org/education/classes/</u>

THURS., JULY 14: CHASING A DREAM by **STEVE ROUSSELL** (virtual & in person), 7-8:30pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd. Houston Rose Society event. Free. (Virtual: <u>meet.goto.com/917509069</u>)

SAT., JULY 16: STARTING FALL TOMATOES, ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW! by MEG TAPP, 10-11:30am, UHI Patio Garden at Headquarters. Urban Harvest event. <u>urbanharvest.org/education/classes/</u>

MON., JULY 18: GENOA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN DAY & PLANT SALE, 8:30-11am, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event.

TUES., JULY 19: POLLINATOR GARDENING: HOW TO CREATE A BUTTERFLY GARDEN (Zoom) by SHERRY CRUSE, 7-8:30pm. Urban Harvest event. <u>urbanharvest.org/education/classes/</u>

TUES., JULY 19, FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 11am-noon, free. Harris County Public Library event via Facebook Live: <u>facebook.com/harriscountypl/events/</u>

THURS., JULY 21: BASIC ORCHID CULTURE by MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 6:30 – 8pm, Texas AgriLife Extension Office 9020 Airport Rd. Conroe. <u>MCMGA.com</u>

SAT., JULY 23: PLUMERIA SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, 5002 NASA Parkway, 9am-1pm, Bay Area Community Center, Seabrook. *theplumeriasociety.org*, 281-796-7185

SAT., JULY 23: FALL ORGANIC GARDENING (Zoom) by BOB RANDALL & CAROL BURTON, 9:30-12:30pm. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/

TUES., AUG. 2: GROWING GREAT TOMATOES FOR FALL (Zoom) by SHERRY CRUSE, 7-8:30pm. Urban Harvest event. urbanharvest.org/education/classes/ TUES., AUG. 9: A RETURN TO WELLNESS (Zoom) by TAMIKA CASTON-MILLER, 6-7:30pm. Urban Harvest event. <u>urbanharvest.org/education/classes/</u>

SAT., AUG. 13: FALL WORKSHOP: FRUIT TREE CARE(Zoom) by ANGELA CHANDLER, 9:30am-11:30am. Urban Harvest event. <u>urbanharvest.org/education/classes/</u>

TUES., AUG. 16: GARDENING FOR SOIL, COMPOST AND MULCH by SHERRY CRUSE, 7-8:30pm, Urban Harvest event. *urbanharvest.org/education/classes/*

TUES., OCT. 11: GROWING PLUMERIAS, (Zoom & in-person), 7pm, Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. *theplumeriasociety.org*; 281-796-7185



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!

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









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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 longestrunning, continuously-published local newspaper column in the Greater Houston area. The name, she says, is not just fun, it's true.

Brenda's gradual sideways step from 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 which morphed into her *Lazy Gardener's Guide on CD*, which she now emails free upon request.

Brenda became a Harris County Master Gardener and, over the years, served on the boards of many Greater Houston area horticulture organizations. She 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 Assistant 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.

