



Sept-8-2022 | Issue 452

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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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## WILL IT WORK HERE? NEW PLANTS NEED RESEACHING

*"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments."*

– Janet Kilburn Phillips

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

**AFTER ALL THESE YEARS** (almost 50!) of writing about gardening in Houston, it's grand fun when some idea brand new (to us) comes along. Two readers lately -- one "near Pearland" and one from Kingwood -- asked about creeping red thyme. *Thymus praecox 'Coccineus'* (right above) is being touted as a substitute for, or at least a way to cut down on, our popular albeit-water-greedy St. Augustine lawns. Dense mats produce red/violet summer flowers on year-round foliage. Sun, dry sites. Slow grower to 3-6" tall & 12-18" wide It's listed for Zones 4-9. ("4" is a lot farther north than we are!)

This low-growing relative of the popularly-grown herb thyme boasts tiny oval leaves and flowers is said to be very effective around stepping stones. But,

first, is it really going to do double-duty (decorative and edible) in our yards?

**TWO HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA** members gave guarded opinions. **SUSAN WOOD** ([HSA/South Texas Unit](#)) fears our hot, humid area, heavy rains and frequent droughts will make it more successful as a limited ground cover, than as an edible thyme. She warns:

*"Thyme is not as happy as St. Augustine to be tramped upon regularly. Summer sun in Zone 4 is similar to our winter sun in Zone 9. This means our summer sun in Houston area can easily burn out thyme, leading gardeners to overwatering which causes root rot etc." At least in a pot, Susan adds, "Thyme can be moved to shadier location during summer. But it's still dicey."*

Neither Susan nor **JOANNA HAGLER**, [HSA's Pioneer Unit](#), are prepared to recommend creeping red thyme for kitchen use. However, Pioneer Unit members are studying thymes this year with tastings to determine the best thymes for culinary use at end of year.

I hope to report their findings 2023. If you try creeping red thyme as even a spot replacement for St. Augustine, please let me know how it works [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)).

**LINDA GAY**, former Mercer Botanic Garden director and area gardening guru, is very optimistic ... with this caveat and planting advice: *"You can get most thymes to grow here if you mix 40% shale/rock into native soil which will keep water off roots and more air around the roots. Full sun to part shade, and no wet areas!"*

\* \* \*

**MEA CULPA, HOUSTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY!** Last week's notes on always-popular **Fall HCSS Sale** neglected to give time and place:

- **FRI-SAT, SEPT 16-17:** 9am-5pm, Metropolitan MultiService Center, 1475 West Gray. [hcsstex.org](http://hcsstex.org).

Sure to go quickly are Euphorias pseudo cactus 'zig zag' (*pictured*), definitely lazy gardener plants with multiple medicinal uses over the millenniums. They prefer sun but can take shade. FYI; Poinsettias and milkweed are euphorbias.



\* \* \*

**A DELIGHTFUL BAT HOUSE** hung for decades over a garden in our heavily-treed yard. Husband thought it was hilarious since it never harbored a single bat. I maintained it was an ecological statement. Bat guano is a great fertilizer.

Houston Arboretum and Nature Center's big "Bat Fest" Sat., Sept 17, 10am-2pm, will spotlight these mosquito-eating, pest controlling, seed-dispersing pollinators. This also a great opportunity to see fall wildflowers in natural

settings, including these below. (*Christina Spade photos*).



At the Houston Arboretum, for example, look for, above, l to r, common and swamp sunflowers, purple passion flower vines, liatris, bundles of American beautyberries and many other wildflowers along the Display Walk, in the Pollinator Garden near the Administration Building, and out in the Meadow. Check out the [Nature Centers in our area](#).

\* \* \*

*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](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com)*

**A lot of folks have asked for heirloom and non-GMO seeds. We listened,  
and now we offer Bentley seeds!**





## VEGETABLE/HERB/FLOWER SEEDS

NON-GMO, HEIRLOOM, OPEN POLLINATED

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Forget Me Not-Firmament-Cynoglossum amabile  | Eggplant, Black Beauty Seed Packets - 22          |
| Marigold-Crackerjack Mixed-Tagetes erecta    | Kale, Dwarf Siberian Seed Packets - 594           |
| Morning Glory Mixed Colors-Ipomoea           | Lettuce, Simpson's Curled Seed Packets - 29       |
| Sunflower-Mammoth-Helianthus annuus          | Lettuce, Parris Island Romaine Seed Packets - 452 |
| Sunflower, All Sorts Mix                     | Lettuce, Buttercrunch Seed Packets - 24           |
| Zinnia-Lilliput Mixed Colors-Zinnia elegans  | Mustard, Southern Giant Curled Seed Packets - 30  |
| Basil, Genovese Seed Packets - 3             | Onion, Evergreen Bunching Seed Packets - 32       |
| Catnip Seed Packets - 63                     | Onion, Sweet Yellow Seed Packets - 589            |
| Garlic Chives Seed Packets - 556             | Pepper, Long Red Cayenne Seed Packets - 38        |
| Cilantro, Coriander Seed Packets - 66        | Pepper, California Wonder Seed Packets - 37       |
| Dill, Long Island Mammoth Seed Packets - 68  | Peas, Sugar Ann Snap Seed Packets - 36            |
| Parsley, Plain Italian Seed Packets - 73     | Pumpkin, Jack O'Lantern Seed Packets - 40         |
| Arugula, Rouquette Seed Packets - 567        | Pumpkin, Small Sugar "NEW"                        |
| Beans, Provider Seed Packets - 5             | Radish, Cherry Belle Seed Packets - 41            |
| Beets, Detroit Seed Packets - 8              | Radish, Sparkler Seed Packets - 43                |
| Brussel Sprouts-Long Island Improved         | Spinach, Bloomsdale Savoy Seed Packets - 44       |
| Cabbage, Pak Choi "NEW"                      | Squash, Acorn Seed Packets - 45                   |
| Cabbage, Copenhagen Market Seed Packets - 10 | Squash, Yellow Crookneck Seed Packets - 48        |
| Cantaloupe, Hale's Best Seed Packets - 12    | Squash, Zucchini Seed Packets - 49                |
| Carrot, Nantes Seed Packets - 14             | Tomato, Ace                                       |
| Celery, Tall Utah "NEW"                      | Tomato, Cherry                                    |
| Corn-Golden Bantam 8 Row                     | Turnip, Purple White Globe Seed Packets - 57      |
| Corn, Pearls & Gold Seed Packets - 18        | Watermelon, Sugar Baby Seed Packets - 60          |
| Cucumber, Boston Pickling Seed Packets - 19  |   |
| Cucumber, Marketmore 76 Seed Packets - 20    |   |

## LOCATED INSIDE THE SALES OFFICE

\$1.99  
EACH

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RESOURCES  
*an organically based service company*

[www.natureswayresources.com](http://www.natureswayresources.com)



## John's Corner



## NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS # 212

We often talk about the dangers of the glyphosate herbicides to our health. Now we have another one of concern.

Another study has found 41 percent of all ground water and 1 out of 3 Americans are contaminated with the toxic weedkiller 2,4-D the main ingredient in agent orange.

The study was carried out by researchers at George Washington University on a pool of 14,395 people. At the beginning of the study in 2001 only 17 percent of the population was contaminated by this toxic chemical and this increased to 40% only 10 years later.

“More evidence comes out almost daily that this chemical is linked to certain cancers, birth defects, immunosuppression, and other health conditions.”  
Epoch Times

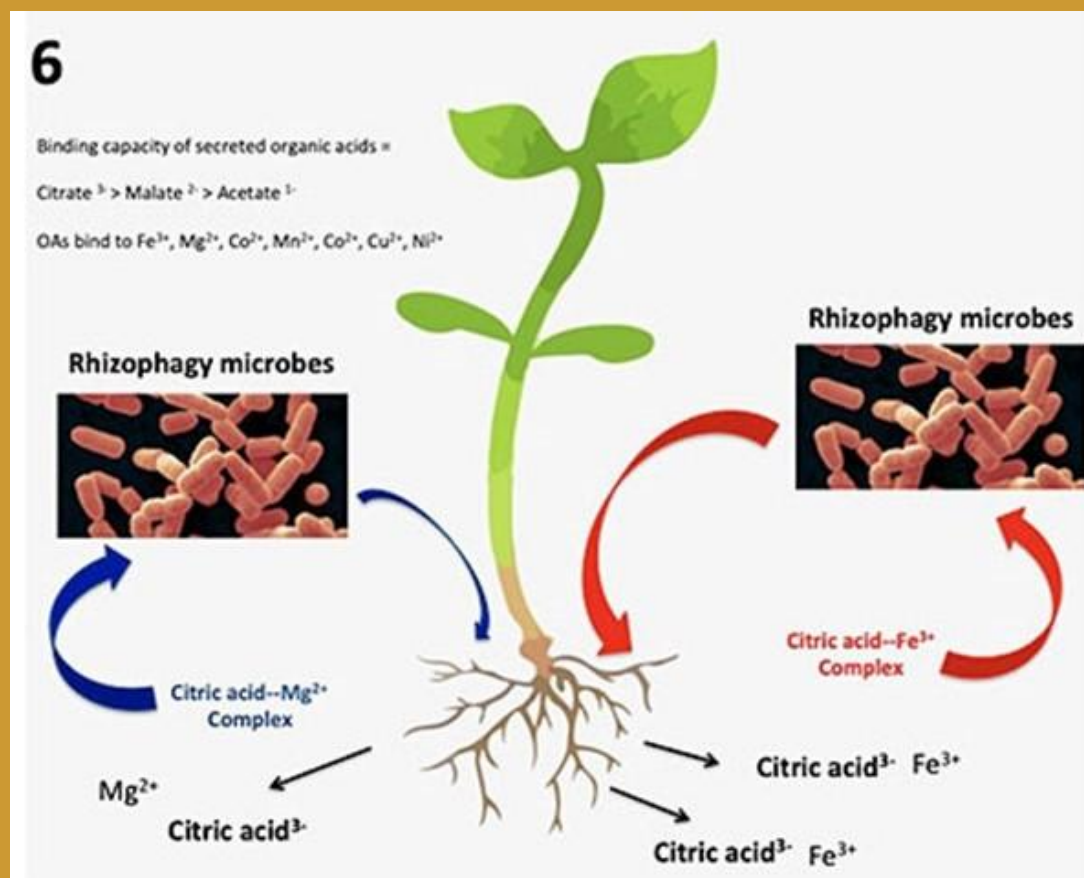
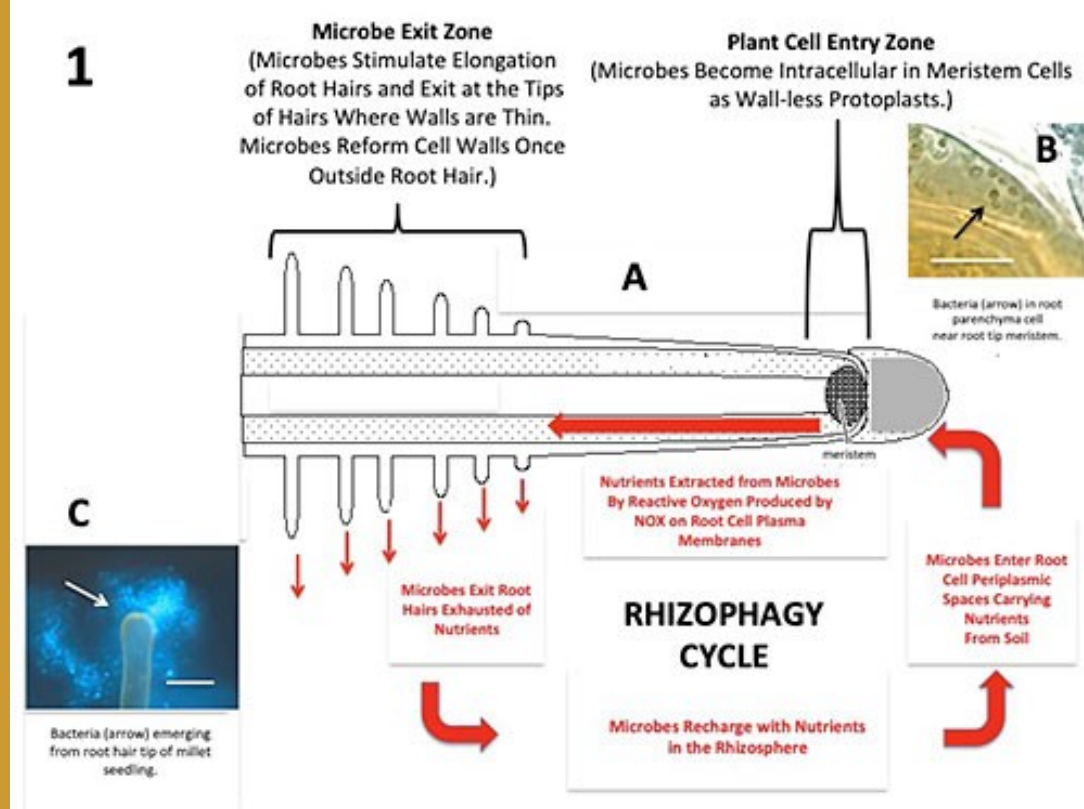
The combination of our extremely poor-quality food and the constant exposure to toxic chemicals, it is no wonder that Americans are the sickest people on Earth. In 2018 we spent \$13.6 trillion on sickness care.

**Rutgers University's Dr James White** has been leading the research into another process of soil microbes called “rhizophagy”. His team has discovered that when plants use this process, they are tougher, healthier, and generally stronger. When one uses water-soluble artificial fertilizers, plants quit using this process!

So, what is “rhizophagy”? In nature bacteria will dissolve or acquire a certain element a plant needs for nutrition and incorporate it into their cell structure. The plant will then open up its root hairs and allow the bacteria to enter the root. The plant then tells the bacteria to release that element (nutrient) and give it to the plant. When this process is completed, the plant then releases the bacteria back into the soil to find more nutrients that it needs.

While in the plant root, the bacteria also produce ethylene and nitric oxides which are plant growth hormones.

Slides images are from his website.



Dr. James White discusses the Rhizophagy Cycle and how we are just starting to scratch the surface on how plants work. God's creation is amazing and how all life is linked together





Remember, all artificial fertilizers are chemically salts and salts kill bacteria, hence we lose this benefit. This another reason to use only good organic fertilizers like the Microlife™ family and use Re-mineralizer to replace the trace and micronutrients.

A recent article in the Epoch Times newspaper (April 27-May 3, 2022) was on the growing trend to get rid of lawns and create “Food Forests”. Americans are tired of the low quality, chemically adulterated stuff full of toxic chemicals that are the cause of most of our health problems.

Tens of thousands of tons of toxic chemicals like pesticides are being applied to our lawns every year that have been linked to many forms of cancer. These toxic chemicals destroy the health of the soil, pollute our waterways, and require large amounts of water.

We are seeing supply chain issues, shortages of some foods and rapidly increasing prices. Hence, many folks are removing their lawns and planting fruit and vegetable gardens using permaculture methods.

One health example is that spinach loses most of its vitamin-C within only one day of harvest. Most vegetables lose 50% or more of their original nutrition in less than a week (which is less than average time from harvest to grocery store shelves).

Using Permaculture techniques in our yards and gardens mimics natural ecosystems, gives us better results, and cost less. In addition, we get beautiful flowers and nutrient dense, better tasting food.

Urban Harvest offers classes in permaculture ([www.urbanharvest.org](http://www.urbanharvest.org)), in addition to sponsoring several Farmers Markets where one can get fresh locally grown organic food.

I am finishing an excellent new book titled, "What Your Food Ate, How to Heal the Land and Reclaim our Health" by David Montgomery and Anne Bikle that links soil care to our health. I will review it in a future newsletter.

\* \* \*



*Pines and Prairies Chapter*

# Fall 2022 Plant Sale

*Featuring pollinator-friendly native species!*

*Plant list available on October 1 - <https://npsot.org/wp/pinesandprairies>*



**Saturday, October 8**  
**9:00a – 12:30p**

**New World Botanical**  
2701 Lone Star Parkway  
Montgomery, TX

**Members only Sale**  
**Friday, October 7,**  
**5:00p -7:00p**

**Not a member? Join**  
**Native Plant Society**  
**of Texas TODAY!**





# Level 1 Native Landscaping Certification Program (NLCP)

October 15, 2022, 8a-4p



Classroom Instruction:  
**Timber Lane Community Center**  
1902 Naplechase Crest Dr, Spring

Plant Walk:  
**Mercer Botanic Gardens**  
22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble

Register online:



## 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: [lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:lazygardenerbrenda@gmail.com). Check your published entry!*
  - *Always check to make sure your event is listed. if not let Brenda know*
- EVENTS ARE ON-SITE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED***

**FRI., SEPT. 9-29: WALLER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FRUIT AND NUT TREE SALE** online order portal open while supplies last. Pickup Sat. Oct.

1. [txmg.org/wallermg](http://txmg.org/wallermg). 979-826-7651

**FRI-SAT, SEPT. 9-10: GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SUNDOWN SALE.** Online. Details/Shop: [store.galvestonmg.org](https://store.galvestonmg.org)

**FRI-SAT, SEP 9-10: SUMMER SUNDOWN SALE** by **GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, Noon-Noon. Online. Details and shop: [store.galvestonmg.org](https://store.galvestonmg.org) or 281-786-6834.

**SAT., SEPT. 10: INSECTARY GARDENS, HOW TO ATTRACT THE GOOD GUYS** by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30 AM. Urban Harvest event.  
[urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](https://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**SAT, SEP 10: ONIONS & GARLIC** by **KEVIN LANCON**, 9-11 am., AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4012-B, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener events. Free. Register: [txmg.org/galveston](https://txmg.org/galveston); 281-309-4065

**SAT, SEP 10: HERBS FOR GULF COAST** by **BRIANA ETIE & NANCY LANGSTON-NOH**, 1-3 pm. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4012-B, La Marque. Galveston Cty Master Gardeners. Free. Register: [galveston.agrilife.org/event/](https://galveston.agrilife.org/event/); 281-309-4065

**SUN., SEPT. 11: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL FLORAL PLANT SALE** (Virtual), opens 9am, MCMGA.COM, 936-539-7824 Details & inventory [mcmga.square.site/s/shop](https://mcmga.square.site/s/shop)

**MON., SEPT. 12, PLANT PROPAGATION**, (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 10-11:30am. Free. Houston Community College event. Register: [hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops](https://hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops)

**FRI-SAT, SEPT 16-17: HOUSTON CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE**, 9am-5pm, Metropolitan MultiService Center, 1475 West Gray. [hcsstex.org](https://hcsstex.org)

**SAT., SEPT. 17: WILDSAPES WORKSHOP & EXTRAVAGANZA SALE.** Native Plant Society of Texas/Houston Chapter. Register/sale inventory: [npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop-2022](https://npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop-2022)

**SAT., SEPT. 17 (& 24): XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA!**, 8am-noon, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, 299 Hwy 332 W. Lake Jackson. [info@gcbo.org](mailto:info@gcbo.org)

**SAT., SEPT. 17, MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDNERS FALL FLORAL SALE.** 9am-noon, County Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road Conroe. 936-539-7824. Register: [MCMGA.com](https://MCMGA.com)

**SAT., SEPT. 17: PLANT SWAP** at **WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS SHS**, 10am-2pm, 23400 Park Road 12, Washington (TX). [celeste.solomon@thc.texas.gov](mailto:celeste.solomon@thc.texas.gov) 936-878-2214 ext. 230

**SAT., SEPT. 17: ORCHID REPOTTING WORKSHOP** at **SHANGRI LA BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER**. 10am-noon, 2111 W Park Ave, Orange. \$15. Register: [starkculturalvenues.doubleknot.com/event/adult-workshop-series-orchid](https://starkculturalvenues.doubleknot.com/event/adult-workshop-series-orchid)

**SAT., SEPT. 17: HEAR FROM OUR EXPERTS** by **HOUSTON BOTANIC GARDEN HORTICULTURE STAFF**, 9:30am-5pm., 1 Botanic Lane, Register: <https://hbg.org/events/hear-from-our-experts-2022-09-17-09-30/>

**MON., SEPT. 19, GENOA FRIENDSHIP OPEN GARDEN DAY**, 8:30-11am, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event.

**TUES., SEPT. 20, PLANT PROPAGATION** (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 11am-noon, free. Harris County Public Library event via Facebook Live: [facebook.com/harriscountypb/events/](https://facebook.com/harriscountypb/events/)

**TUES., SEPT. 20: WATER GARDENING** by **ANITA NELSON**, 10am. St. Basil's Hall, 702 Burney Road, Sugar Land. Free. Sugar Land Garden Club event. [sugarlandgardenclub.org](https://sugarlandgardenclub.org)

**THURS-FRI., SEPT. 22-23: SE URBAN FARM & SAFETY SUMMIT** by **AGRILIFE EXTENSION**, 9am-4pm. Gerald D. Young Ag. Science Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd, Katy. \$50 (\$80 couples). Register: [setxurbanagsummit.eventbrite.com](https://setxurbanagsummit.eventbrite.com)

**SAT, SEPT. 24: T-BUD GRAFTING, HANDS-ON**, by **HAZEL LAMPTON**, 9-11:30am. AgriLife Extension, Carbide Park, 4012-B, La Marque. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Register: [txmg.org/galveston](https://txmg.org/galveston); 281-309-4065

**SAT., SEPT 24, TRANQUILITY TREASURES, A GARDEN WALK**, 10-4 pm. League City Garden Club. \$15, [leaguecitygardenclub.org](https://leaguecitygardenclub.org).

**SAT., SEPT. 24: XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA!**, 8am-noon, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, 299 Hwy 332 W. Lake Jackson. [info@gcbo.org](mailto:info@gcbo.org)

**SUN., SEPT. 25: SUSTAINABLE LIVING THROUGH PERMACULTURE 1**, Southwest Houston), 1-5pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](https://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**WED., SEPT 28: BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK** by **KARINA BOESE**, 7pm. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray St. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society event. [hcsstex.org](https://hcsstex.org)

**FRI., SEPT. 30, THE FUTURE OF URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT** by **AGRILIFE EXTENSION**, 9am-3pm. University of Houston Downtown, 315 N. Main St., Houston, TX 77002. \$50 fee. Register: <https://fufss2022.eventbrite.com/>

**SAT., OCT. 1: FRIENDS OF MERCER BOTANIC GARDEN AUTUMN PLANT SALE**, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble. [themercersociety.org/](https://themercersociety.org/)

**SAT., OCT 1: SJC MASTER GARDENER MEMBER-GROWN PLANT SALE AND GARDENING DEMOS**, 8am-1pm, Shepherd Community Center, 10251 TX-150. Shepherd. <https://txmg.org/sjmg/event/plant-sale-10-22/>

**TUES., OCT. 4: IN THE GARDEN: FALL VEGETABLE PLANTING DEMONSTRATIONS** by **SHARON STINSON**, 5:30-6:30pm, Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](https://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**THUR., OCT. 6, PRUNING IN THE LANDSCAPE** (virtual) by **PAUL WINSKI**, 10-11am. Free. Register: [www.homegrown2022.eventbrite.com](https://www.homegrown2022.eventbrite.com)

**SAT., OCT. 8: FALL GARDENING AND NUTRITION WORKSHOP** by **CAROL BURTON**, 9am-1pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](https://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**SAT, OCT. 8: GALVESTON COUNTY AGRILIFE FALL FESTIVAL**, 9am-1pm., Carbide Park, 4012-B, La Marque. Master Gardener event. [galveston.agrilife.org/](https://galveston.agrilife.org/)

**SAT., OCT. 8: INDOOR & CONTAINER GARDENING**, 9-11am, Montgomery County Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road Conroe. 936-539-7824. Register: [MCMGA.com](https://MCMGA.com)

**SAT., OCT. 8: COMPOSTING** (Zoom) by **ANGELA CHANDLER**, 9:30-11:30. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](https://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**SAT., OCT. 8: FALL GARDENING WORKSHOP** by **CAROL BURTON**, 9am-1pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](https://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**MON., OCT. 10, CITRUS TREES**, (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 10-11:30am. Free. Houston Community College event. Register: [hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops](https://hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops)

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



**TUES., OCT. 11: ALL ABOUT STRAWBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES AND BLUEBERRIES** (Zoom) by **JUSTIN DUNCAN**, 6-7pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**THURS., OCT. 13: ROSE PROPAGATION** by **DEANNA KRAUSE**, (virtual & on-site), 7-9pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd. Free. Houston Rose Society/Houston event. [meet.goto.com/957814789](https://meet.goto.com/957814789)

**FRI.-SAT., OCT 14-15: GARDEN CLUB OF HOUSTON 80th BULB AND PLANT MART**, Fri., 9am-5pm; Sat., 10am-2pm, St. John the Divine Church 2450 River Oaks Blvd.. Free. Preview party Thurs., Oct. 12, & inventory: [GCHOUSTON.ORG](http://GCHOUSTON.ORG)

**SAT., OCT. 15: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FALL VEGGIES, HERBS & SUCCULENTS SALE**. 9am-Noon, Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824; [MCMGA.com](http://MCMGA.com)

**SAT., OCT. 15: MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GARDEN DAYS**. 9am-noon, Texas AgriLife Extension, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. 936-539-7824. [MCMGA.com](http://MCMGA.com)

**SAT., OCT. 15: THE WOODLANDS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE**, 9 am, The Woodlands Farmer's Market, 7 Switchbud Pl., The Woodlands. [thewoodlandsgardenclub.org](http://thewoodlandsgardenclub.org)

**MON., OCT. 17, GENOA FRIENDSHIP OPEN GARDEN DAY**, 8:30-11am, 1210 Genoa Red Bluff Rd. Harris County Master Gardener event.

**TUES., OCT. 18, CITRUS TREES** (virtual) by **HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**, 11am-noon, free. Harris County Public Library event via Facebook Live: [facebook.com/harriscountypbl/events/](https://facebook.com/harriscountypbl/events/)

**TUES., OCT. 25: GROWING HERBS FOR HEALTH AND THE HOLIDAYS** (Zoom) by **SHERRY CRUSE**, 7:00-8:30pm. Urban Harvest event. [urbanharvest.org/education/classes/](http://urbanharvest.org/education/classes/)

**WED., OCT 26: PHOENIX'S BOTANICAL GARDEN & ARIZONA'S SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK** by **DR. ANDREA VARESCIC**, 7pm. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray St. Houston Cactus and Succulent Society event. [hcsstex.org](http://hcsstex.org)

**SAT., NOV. 12: FRIENDS OF MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS CAMELLIA & WINTER COLOR SALE** (virtual), [themercersociety.org/](http://themercersociety.org/)

**SAT., NOV. 12: HOLIDAYS AT MERCER BOTANIC GARDENS** [themercersociety.org/](http://themercersociety.org/)

\* \* \*



If we inspire you to attend any of these,  
please let them know you heard about it in . . .

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**Saturdays 7-9am • SportsRadio 610**



## 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. 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 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.





Lazy Gardener And Friends | 101 Sherbrook Circle, Conroe, TX 77385

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