

URBAN DIRT

Published for the Harris County Master Gardeners

July/August 1994

Edited by: Pam Libby

Vol 3, No. 4



IT'S SUMMER AND IT'S HOT!!

Desert

It's the time of year when you might want to just make a quick run out to the garden in the early morning to spray, water, weed a little and run back in.

Or perhaps, like these two gardeners, you'll

find a shady spot to sit back and do a little planning. Maybe it's time to consider those hardy tropicals you've been meaning to try or maybe some xeriscaping. But in Houston, summertime might be the best time to get out those old seed catalogs and plan for our second planting season: fall.

Yes, in Houston, we get a second season to plan and plant a garden. See page 6 for MG Patty Rode's suggestions for the fall herb garden. As for vegetables, seed potatoes are planted whole in mid-

August, beans (bush, pole and limas) are also good to plant in August. Sets of broccoli, brussels sprouts and cauliflower are also good August crops (according to Bob Flagg's *Gardening Almanac*).

There are also a number of bulbs, tubers and rhizomes which can be placed in the ground in August, among them are amaryllis, caladium, canna, dahlias and some irises. Seeds for other flowers such as bluebonnets, calendulas, alyssums, and four-o'clocks can be placed in the open ground in August.

August is also a harvest month for many fruits and vegetables which mature in Houston's August heat, so enjoy your bounty, but do remember to take the time to rest in the shade a little!

JULY MEETING: 7/19/94

Executive Board	5:30 pm
Dinner Meeting	6:30 pm
General Meeting	7:00 pm

SUBJECT:

"Stretching Out: The New and the Best"

Speaker: Robert Grove, Hines Nursery

AUGUST MEETING: 8/16/94

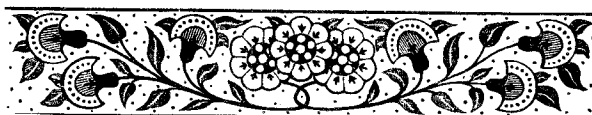
Executive Board	5:30 pm
Dessert and Coffee	6:30 pm
General Meeting	7:00 pm

SUBJECT:

"Herbs"

Speaker: Mary Versfelt, Master Gardener

Please remember: Bring plants to sell!



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

by Murray Kast

While there may not be much drama in setting the agenda for the HCMGA, there is, none the less, one major consideration for any president, **DON'T MESS UP A GOOD THING.** It does tend to be a little humbling.

My recollections of presidents of the HCMGA are Joyce Flott, Tom Robb, and Barbara Ferer (and, of course, I've already heard about how excited members are that Lois Sutton will serve next year). Each was very different in approach. Each made significant contributions. Each made the path a little easier for the next president. But most importantly, each made sure they didn't mess up a good thing. The point is not that one comes to this office with the overriding concern being the fear of making a mistake -- they have been made, and I will too -- but that as an organization, we are well conceived and on a proper course. That all started before Joyce and will continue after Lois. It does make it a little easier knowing that there were lots of people before you who have greatly *contributed* to your success; that there are lots of people around you now who are *working* for your success; and there will be people who come after you that will *share* in your success. That is what we are all about -- Contributing, Working, Sharing. There is a true reward in each of those functions. But that's no secret to the membership. It's what we agreed to do.



HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

#2 Abercrombie Drive
Houston, Texas 77084

Phone (713) 855-5611
Fax # (713) 855-5638

OFFICERS:

- President.....Murray Kast
467-7491 681-3555
- President-Elect.....Lois Sutton
862-8857
- Vice President.....Arthur E. Busby, III
370-6521
- Secretary.....Jo Anne Stalls
896-7742
- Treasurer.....Glen Graves
667-4398
- Membership and Junior
Past President.....Tom Robb
465-5987

ANCILLARY POSITIONS

- Advisor & County Extension Agent
- Horticulturist.....Tom LeRoy
855-5600
- Harris County Extension Agency
Secretary.....Stephanie Gebhardt
855-5600
- Editor
Urban Dirt.....Pam Libby
937-8437
- Gulf Coast Fruit
Study Group.....Yvonne Gibbs
462-7052