

URBAN DIRT

Published for the Harris County Master Gardeners

March/April 1996

Vol 5, No. 2

SPRINGTIME IN HOUSTON



There are many early blooming plants and trees that add color to the garden at this time of year. A drive through the established areas of town or a walk through an arboretum may well give you some beautiful landscaping ideas.

Some of the trees in bloom now are the lovely Flowering Almond trees, the Redbud tree, the Dogwood, Flowering Peach, Orchid Tree and Pink Magnolia. As for scrubs, Azalea will dominate the spring show, but equally beautiful are Bridal Wreath, *Camellia japonica*, Cherry Laurel, Hawthorn, Mahonia, and Flowering Quince. Remember to prune your Azalea bushes **after** they have bloomed. This will make the plant healthier and bushier for next year's blooming cycle. Do not prune azalea in the summer, as that is when it sets the bloom buds.

This is a good time to sow: Ageratum, Alyssum, Cockscomb, Coleus, Cosmos, Feverfew, Gypsophila, Impatiens, Lobelia, Marigold, Morning-Glory, Nasturtium, Periwinkle, Phlox, Scabiosa, Sunflower, Vinca and Zinnia. Many of these plants can also be set out now, depending on weather conditions. Other plants to set: Calendula, Candytuft, Daisies, Pinks, Salvia, Snapdragon, and Verbena.

This is a good time of year to plant: Asparagus, Snap and Pole Beans, Carrots, Corn, Cucumber, Lettuce, Onion, Peas, and Tomato sets.

It's finally spring, so go to it! Happy gardening!

MARCH MEETING: 3/19/96

Executive Board	5:30 p.m.
Dessert and Coffee	6:30 p.m.
General Meeting	7:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

"All about Butterflies and Gardening"

Speaker: Dr. Nancy Grieg

APRIL MEETING: 4/16/96

Executive Board	5:30 p.m.
Dessert and Coffee	6:30 p.m.
General Meeting	7:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

"So You've always Wanted to Propagate."

Speaker: Dr. Tom LeRoy, County Extension Agent and Horticulturist

