

URBAN DIRT

Published for the Harris County Master Gardeners

May/June 1995

Vol 4, No. 3



IT'S MAY!

It's the merry month of May and gardeners all over Houston are busy as bees getting their gardens ready for our long Houston summer.

Here are a few ideas that may serve to inspire you:

Some time during this month you will probably want to apply that second dose of fertilizer to your Azaleas, you know, the "6 weeks after blooming" dose.

You will also want to apply a balanced fertilizer to your crepe myrtles and a high nitrogen boost to your lawn.

It's not too late to plant the following seeds:

Globe Amaranth, Sunflower, Verbena, Vinca Marigold, Sweet Pea, and Zinnia.

You can now plant:

Snap Beans, Okra, Blackeye Peas and Summer Squash. Also the following flowers can be put in the ground now: Begonia, Butterflyweed, Cockscomb, Coral Vine, Cosmos, Daisies, Feverfew, Hibiscus, Jasmine, Lantana, Phlox, Salvias, and violets.

If you haven't done it already, it's a good time to prune those spring-flowering plants that have bloomed. Also, take time to clean up the beds and destroy any diseased leaves (especially around the rose bushes). Remember to apply some new mulch to keep the roots cool in the coming summer months.

A good gardening plan involves having perennials to provide structure and permanence and annuals to fill in and provide color. Of course, there are as many ideas about ways to garden as there are gardeners, but I hope these will give you a little inspiration. Happy Gardening!!

MAY MEETING: 5/16/95

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

SUBJECT:

"Landscaping with Native Plants"

Speaker: John Koros/Environmental Director, Harris County Flood Control District.

JUNE MEETING: 6/20/95

Executive Board	5:30 p.m.
Dinner meeting	6:30 p.m.
Meeting	7:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

"Shade Gardening"

Speaker: Linda Gay, Chief Horticulturist, Mercer Arboretum



FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

by Murray Kast

I live near a small park in the Spring Branch area, Freed Park. I walk two dogs each morning, ran or shine, or face the wrath. The majority of visitors to Freed Park are transients (sadly) who have little sense of self, much less sense of neighborhood.

Litter is common, within mere feet of large trash receptacles. Recently, while awaiting the hellions' return (from a squirrel hunt), and needing to vent my own nervous energy, I began to pick up the debris. Earlier, I had noticed a worn out looking gentleman sitting on top of a picnic table. Sure enough, a few minutes into my good deed for the day," the man from the table had quietly joined the endeavor. Within 10 minutes, we had the area in pretty fair shape. At one point, when we were working fairly close, I started to say "Thanks." Fortunately, I realized the social et al implications of that well intentioned, but inappropriate remark. He wasn't involved in policing the park for me, he was doing it for himself. I may have been the impetus for his action, I was hardly the reason. (We acknowledged one another with a wave as we finished.)

I will dwell on but one of several very important lessons of this episode. That volunteerism is way underrated as a reward. Too often people say (we say), that "I just don't have time to volunteer" or "time to volunteer more." Truthfully, that can be the case at various times in our lives. But like a savings account, you should not put it off too long or do too little, lest you miss out.

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