

2021 Officers

President: Nick Auck

Vice-President – James Lamb

Secretary – Gayle Renfro

Treasurer – Charlotte Fuller



June 2021

Master Memos

A Newsletter for Red Dirt Master Gardeners

If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please call me at 870-779-3609, email jcaraway@uada.edu or visit our office, now located at 1007 Jefferson Avenue (inside of the Senior Center), Texarkana, Arkansas.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Caraway
Jennifer Caraway

County Extension Agent
Agriculture/Staff Chair

JC:jds

Contact Me

Address: 1007 Jefferson, Texarkana, AR 71854

Phone: 870-779-3609

E-Mail: jcaraway@uada.edu

MG Facebook: www.facebook.com/Miller-County-Red-Dirt-Master-Gardeners

Ag Facebook: www.facebook.com/millercountyuaex/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Miller_CoAg

Photo Above: Come see us at our new location. MGs have been working their magic to really make our new location shine, all while still maintaining the Miller County Courthouse flowerbeds. If you're driving downtown, make sure you go check them out! We're now located at 1007 Jefferson Ave.

Photo courtesy of Reagan & Charlotte Lavender. Check out page 3 for more.

In-Person MG Meeting – June 10, 2021 – 6:30 – REA
No Food Served – We look forward to seeing your smiles.

Tee-Shirt Orders

Everyone needs a green tee shirt for events.

If you would like an additional color, please specify which color. All shirts are unisex.

Short Sleeve (up to size XL) are \$10

Long Sleeve (up to size XL) are \$12

2XL add \$1

3XL add \$2

4XL add \$3

You can order at the monthly meeting Thurs., June 10th at the REA. Please make checks payable to Miller County Master Gardeners.

Contact Teresa Slack for additional information at 903-244-6222 or teresaslack@windstream.net



Fund Raising & AUCTION

Join us for the

GROWING OUR COMMUNITIES

VIRTUAL AUCTION

Noon, June 4, 2021 until Noon, June 11, 2021

Proceeds fund the Janet B. Carson Scholarships

Registration: county76auction.uada.edu

For More Information Contact Virtual Auction Chairs:

Linda Soffer, lfsoffer@outlook.com, 573-253-9774
Nancy Cunningham, cunninghamnancy7@gmail.com, 479-381-8285

You don't need a green thumb to attend the Arkansas MG auction this year. It is online, open to all, and free to attend.

Share the link below to our MG Virtual Silent Auction with friends, family, and community members. Anyone can bid.

View items and register to bid here:
<https://county76auction.uada.edu>.

The online auction is open June 4-11 with more than 200 items available.

Gardeners of all abilities will find plenty of items, from tools and seed to rain barrels and garden gnomes. Ferns, hanging baskets, succulents, as well as items for non-gardeners.

The auction coincides with the MG annual state conference, which is also virtual & open to the public this year.

Bidders must register and provide a credit card. Winners will pick up items at Little Rock on June 19th from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Pollinator Garden at Gateway Farmers Market

A pollinator garden is under construction at Gateway Farmers Market, brought to you by the Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners. It will feature 4 raised beds, along with four Soil Solarization plots. These solarization plots will be covered with a plastic to kill weed seeds and fungal spores.

Located in the center of the garden, a Pebble Bath Fountain will be spotlighted. This fountain will be an attraction for the local butterflies!

The goal of this pollinator garden is to attract butterflies, wasps, bees, and a variety of other insects to our native plants and herbs.



Extension Service Has A New Location

There have been a lot of “news” lately. After the Miller County Courthouse flood, we were relocated to our new location at 1007 Jefferson Avenue in Texarkana. If you’re driving downtown, be sure to check out the beautiful flowerbeds that the Master Gardener crew has been working on tirelessly. They are also still maintaining the Courthouse flowerbeds and they are equally beautiful.

To find us, go straight across from the Gateway Farmers Market and we’re down on the left past Texarkana Water Utilities before Jefferson Park.

Another “new” is our email addresses. We have changed from UAEX to UADA, but it is still the same in every other way. We have simply gone from the University of Arkansas Extension to University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

WE ARE OFF TO OUR NEW OFFICES!

MILLER COUNTY EXTENSION HAS MOVED



1007 Jefferson Ave, Texarkana
New Email: jcaraway@uada.edu





Here are a few photos – all taken by Reagan and Charlotte Lavender – of the work that the MG crew has growing at our new location.

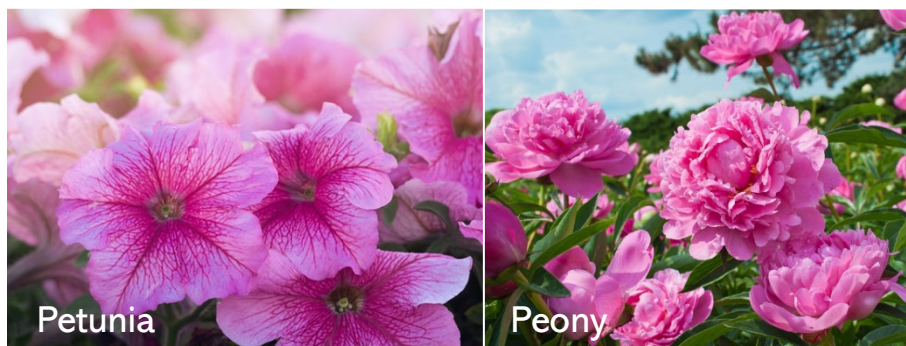


Brighten Your Garden with These Pink Flowers

Submitted by Rita Nichols

There's good reason for the trend of pink flowers. Not only do they add a burst of cheery pink, but some are even deer resistant. Bright pink is an attention-grabbing color while soft, light pinks tend to be calming. Either way, loading your garden with pink flowers can be stunning as well as a mood-booster. Flowers in these shades typically symbolize happiness, grace, innocence, youth, and joy. Plus, birds, bees, and other pollinators will enjoy what you're growing, too.

Petunia – Trumpet Pinks



Petunias are a full-sun favorite with lots of colors to choose from. Pink flowers come in shades from bright pink, hot pink, to salmon shades and muted pastels. There are also variegated varieties with light and dark shades mixing on the petals. You can also choose shapes – traditional trumpet-shaped flowers (that hummingbirds love), pretty ruffled flowers & mini petunias give you a smaller version of the traditional look.

Peony – The Most Popular Pink Flower

No flower is more fragrant than the peony, and their blooms come in all shades of pink. They're one of the most popular and beloved perennials. They are beautiful + don't need a lot of maintenance. Locate with lots of sun & well-draining soil, as well as good air circulation around the plant. With the proper growing conditions, your peonies can last 50-100 years!



Dianthus – Pretty in Pink

Dianthus (Sweet William) come in a variety of pinks. This is another versatile perennial with pink flowers that prefers full sun but will tolerate part shade. Dianthus, or Sweet William, comes in all kinds of sizes, from miniature varieties that top out at 6 inches to giant dianthus, which can grow up to 3 feet tall. Search for this plant in shades of pink and you'll find everything from white carnations (which are a type of dianthus) edged in pink, to fiery hot pinks. And deer seem to not like to eat these pretty pink flowers.

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President's Corner

I hope you are all doing well and looking forward to our first meeting in over a year. We will be meeting on June 10th at the REA building (our regular meeting place) at 6:30 pm. We will not have a meal due to covid restrictions, but we will have a speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe, who will present on attracting butterflies. In our business meeting, we will have a brief discussion on upcoming meetings, ideas that I hope you will take part in and enjoy. We are planning a road trip in October as well as visiting gardens this summer and plant/bulb swap in the fall.

One of the things I enjoy most about gardening is building on success. For the past two years, I have had my tomato patch in a sunny spot in the front yard without great success. By accident, a tomato plant grew in the backyard where it wasn't planted and did exceptionally well. This year, I moved my tomatoes to the new location. Unfortunately, I also tried to grow dahlias in the same spot. Both are now four to six feet tall. So even learning from previous experience isn't void of mistakes. As we restart our meetings, we have the opportunity to do things better than before.

It should go without saying, if you are feeling sick, please stay home. We want to see you as much you want to see us. But we must be mindful of those around us. Believe it or not, humans are quite resilient. We want our life to return to normal, but things have changed & a NEW normal is achieved. Masks are NOT required at the meeting. Some of us will be wearing masks, and that is welcomed. Whether you are vaccinated or not, I know we will be mindful of those around us, giving them social distance. Again, I hope everyone will attend to the level of their comfort.

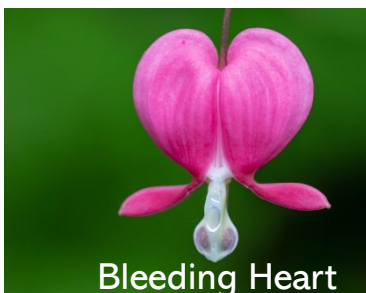
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Brighten Your Garden with Pink Flowers

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Astilbe – Vibrant Pink & Unusual

Astilbe, or False Goat's Beard is a deer-resistant & beautiful choice. Shade gardens look lovely with a little pink & that's where astilbe saves the day. Hardy in zones 4 through 8, these plants are known for plumes of tiny flowers and pretty foliage. Astilbe come in light pinks, apricot pinks, deep pinks and pink purple.



Bleeding Heart



Daylilies

Bleeding Heart – Pink & Unique

Bleeding hearts are a top pick for shade gardens, not only because they grow well in shade but also because of the unusual fronds of heart-shaped flowers they produce. They come in a variety of colors, from soft to bold pink, even bright red. They're easy keepers, too, growing in hardiness zones 2 through 9, preferring cool shade and moist soil.

Daylilies – The Garden Classic

Orange is the color that come to mind when we think of daylilies (known as "tiger lilies"), but these flowers come in a number of beautiful shades and shapes. You'll find dozens of varieties ranging from light to dark—and multicolored, too. Best of all, the daylily is known as a resilient plant. They prefer full sun, but will bloom reliably in a variety of soil conditions. They're can grow in hardiness zones 3 thru 9.

Rose Begonias – Delicate Pinks

Want to fill a shady area with beautiful rosy blooms? Rose begonia is what you're looking for. These pretty perennials are perfect for pots on porches, though you can plant them in beds, too. Begonias are a tender perennial—they won't survive the winter unless you dig up their tubers and bring them indoors. But in zones 9 through 11, they can stay outside so long as there is no danger of freezing.



Rose Begonias

Yarrow – A Tough Beauty

Yarrow is a tough perennial. It likes full sun but tolerates partial shade & grows in hardiness zones 3 to 9. It's drought tolerant, which makes it great for sandy, clay, or well-drained soils.



Yarrow



Sandra Jackson and Bruce Ferguson put together the last of four raised beds Friday afternoon, May 28, 2021, as part of a new pollinator garden the group is installing near the Gateway Farmers Market. Photo from Texarkana Gazette 29 May 2021



J. Delita Lusk and Elizabeth Gerald visited the American Rose Center in Shreveport in May 2021. Photo by Theresa Mitzler.

President's Corner

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To our newest MGs & newer interns - Some of you I have met & talked with and others I am looking forward to the same. As you have questions, please feel free to ask. We are not much on formality here and our members really like to share their knowledge. Anything that we are doing that you think we could do better, your suggestions are welcome. Hope to see you all very soon.

Nick Auch