



## September in the Garden

### *This month in your garden:*

- **Fall soon will be in the Air.** Refresh container gardens with snapdragons, dianthus, mums, petunias, lobelia, crotons & more.
- **Get your transplants in your fall vegetable garden.** Early September is your last chance to get tomatoes and peppers in the ground. Cool-season vegetables such as cauliflower, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, mustard, lettuce, and kohlrabi can be planted late September through January, look for seeds or transplants to add to your garden.
- **Mulch** -Mulching keeps plant roots cooler, weed seeds at bay, and conserves water. Apply 3" deep around trees and shrubs. Add compost around annuals, herbs, vegetables. Do not mound mulch against the base of a plant, this only invites problems for plant.
- **Pests** -Keep an eye out for pests as well as beneficial insects (such as lady bugs which eat aphids). Blast off sucking insects (aphids, mealybugs, etc.) with water and/or spray with insecticidal soap.
- **Hummingbirds – It is migration time!** Keep hummingbird feeders clean, filled, and in a shady area to encourage visitors.
  - **Recipe for Nectar:** Bring 4 cups of water to a boil, add 1 cup of granulated sugar, stir until dissolved. Allow to cool, fill feeders. Keep excess sealed in refrigerator.(no need to add red food coloring)
  - **Natural nectar sources for hummingbirds:** Turk's cap, Hamelia, Shrimp plant, Firespike, Salvia, Lobelia (cardinal flower), Mexican oregano, Pride of Barbados, Anisacanthus (Hummingbird Flame Acanthus), and cigar plants. These are all hummer magnets.
- **Birds** - Change water regularly in bird baths and keep them full.
- **Flowers** - If you want wildflowers, now is the time to plant the seeds. Bluebonnets, Mexican hat, Drummond phlox, gaillardia, liatris, bluebells, lemon horsemint (Monarda citriodora), and plains coreopsis (Coreopsis tinctoria) are a few that will add color to your garden and bring the butterflies.

**Save The Date\*** All our meetings and field trips are on the NFWC calendar



**September- Meeting –**  
Thursday, September 29th  
Roxanne Yose's garden 1:00  
guest speaker- Catherine Lee Clark of Rusty Dog Gardens  
Butterfly Gardens

**October –**  
*Garden Workshop –*  
Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>  
Succulent Pumpkin  
Location: \*In The Garden 11:30  
\*To be confirmed

*Meeting –* Thursday, October 13th  
Mary Ellen Hensley's garden 1:00  
guest speaker- Fran Brockington,  
Galveston County Master Gardener  
All About bulbs

## Garden Happenings this Month

The public is encouraged to Pre-Order  
Bulbs on our website

**June 15th – October 3, 2022.**

**All Bulb & Plant Mart Pre-Orders must  
be picked up on location**

**during Bulb & Plant Mart hours.**

<https://www.gchouston.org/bulb-plant-mart-info/>







**XTREME Hummingbird XTRAVAGANZA!**

**SEPTEMBER 17 & 24 FROM 8AM-12PM**

See migrating hummingbirds up close! You can watch as we carefully band these tiny birds and even symbolically adopt one!

XHX also includes: educational booths, native plant sale, fun kid's activities and expert speakers

**\$5 ADMISSION PER PERSON**

**GULF COAST BIRD OBSERVATORY:  
299 HWY 332 W, LAKE JACKSON, TX**

979-480-0999 info@gcbo.org www.gcbo.org



## Wildscapes Workshop and Native Plant Sale by Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter

Sat, September 17, 2022 8:00 AM – 4:00  
Houston Community College-West Loop Center  
5601 West Loop South Houston, TX 77081

<https://npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop-2022/>

## Upcoming Classes



**ALL ABOUT ALLIUMS; GROWING GARLIC, ONIONS AND THEIR RELATIVES**  
**WED. SEP 21, 2022 @ 7:00 - 8:00 PM**  
**ZOOM LIVE CLASS FREE**

Onions and garlic are staple in the backyard and community garden alike! We are often asked: When is the best time to plant garlic and onions? Why did my garlic and onions rot? Why did my onions and garlic not bulb? This class will cover how to prepare your garden for growing alliums. Find out the answers to these and other practical production questions to help local gardeners plant alliums this fall season.

[https://www.urbanharvest.org/stec\\_event/all-about-alliums-growing-garlic-onions-and-their-relatives/](https://www.urbanharvest.org/stec_event/all-about-alliums-growing-garlic-onions-and-their-relatives/)

## **Garden to Kitchen – *keep hydrated with infused waters***

### **Infused Cucumber Lemon Basil Water**

*Yield:* 1 quart

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 lemon thinly sliced
- 1 cucumber seeded and sliced
- A handful of fresh basil
- 4 cups filtered water

#### **Instructions**

To make the Cucumber Lemon Basil Water: Place a couple cups of ice in a large pitcher. Add the lemon, cucumber, and basil. Fill the pitcher with the filtered water. Let sit at least 30 minutes before enjoying.

<https://plants-rule.com/learn-how-to-make-refreshing-cucumber-lemon-basil-water/>



### **Strawberry, Lime, Cucumber, and Mint Infused Water**

*Yield:* 2 quarts

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- 1 cup sliced cucumbers
- 2 limes, sliced
- 1/4 cup fresh mint leaves
- Ice cubes
- Water – still or sparkling

#### **Instructions**

In a half-gallon jar, or a 2 quart pitcher, layer the strawberries, cucumbers, lime slices, and mint leaves with the ice cubes. Fill jar or pitcher with water. Let chill for 10 minutes, and then enjoy! The longer the water sits, the stronger the flavor. It's mild at first, but after a few hours (or overnight) it's quite strong.

<https://wholefully.com/strawberry-lime-cucumber-and-mint-water/>

## Watermelon Basil Infused Water

Make sure you only use really fresh, really tasty watermelon to get the best flavor. You can also try this with cantaloupe, honeydew, or a combo of melons!

*Yield:* 2 quarts

### Ingredients

- Ice
- 3-4 small slices watermelon
- 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves
- Sparkling or regular water

### Instructions

Fill a glass, bottle, mason jar, pitcher, enjoy immediately or refrigerate for 30 minutes to increase flavor. Refill with more water and ice until fruit flavor is gone.

<https://wholefully.com/infused-water/>





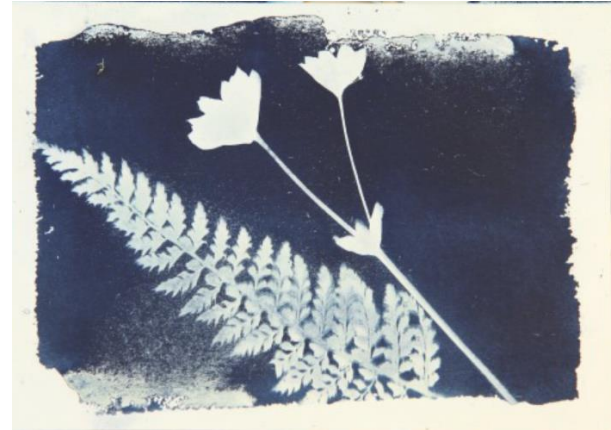
## **GARDEN CREATIONS**

### *Sun Print Cards*

Cyanotype printing, or sun printing, involves applying a special solution to any natural porous material like cloth or paper. When exposed to the sun, the treated area turns a deep cyan blue color. Traditionally Cyanotype printing was used by engineers to make large scale, inexpensive copies of their work, which is where the term “blueprints” comes from.

#### **MATERIALS:**

- [Jacquard Cyanotype Sensitizer Set](#) or [sun print paper](#)
- Disposable rubber gloves
- Glass mixing jar
- Small roller
- Paper
- Rinse tub
- Interesting-shaped dried or fresh flowers and leaves
- Large piece of glass



To make sun print cards, follow the instructions on the package kit to mix the liquid. Combine only the amount you will use for brushing on the paper. Then, use a small foam roller to make a rough rectangle on the cards. Making edges uneven makes it natural looking, like torn paper. Let paper sit overnight.

Pick out a few interestingly shaped flat things from the garden. Flat leaves with plenty of detail seem to work best. Those that are rounded will leave shadows and not give a crisp sun print.

Arrange the botanicals on prepared cards once the solution has dried. Note: be sure to allow the solution to dry completely in the dark as per the package instructions as any light will begin the exposure process. Place a piece of glass over cards and leaves and set it out in direct sun undisturbed.



After leaving recommended time, cards need to be rinsed.

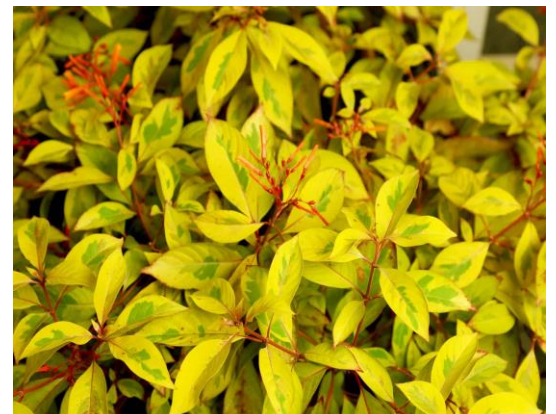
If you do not want to try using chemicals, you can buy [sun print paper](#).

Want more adventures in cyanotype printing?  
Try making your own napkins -  
<https://gardentherapy.ca/sun-print-napkins/>

***Plant of the Month – Hamelia – also known as Hummingbird Bush***

A fast growing sun lover, *Hamelia patens* (firebush, humming bird bush) is a large, soft-stemmed shrub boasting a profusion of orange-red tubular flowers. It blooms best in full sun but tolerates part sun. It will bloom summer into fall, and is a favorite with pollinators – especially hummingbirds. Easy to grow, low maintenance, pest and disease resistant, and also heat tolerant. There are dwarf varieties available. Firebush can be killed to the ground in a freeze but is generally root hardy.

genus name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hamelia patens</i></li> </ul>
light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part Sun</li> <li>• Sun</li> </ul>
plant type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shrub</li> </ul>
height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2'-15'</li> <li>• Dies back in freeze and grows back from ground</li> </ul>
spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2'-8'</li> <li>• Can be pruned</li> </ul>
flower color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orange red</li> </ul>
foliage color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evergreen</li> <li>• Gray-green</li> <li>• Limegreen varieties available</li> </ul>
season features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Bloom</li> <li>• Fall Bloom</li> </ul>
special features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Maintenance</li> <li>• Attracts Birds &amp; Pollinators</li> <li>• Native Plant</li> </ul>



## ***These Are a Few of My Favorite Things***

**Courtney Fast** shares her favorite indestructible garden plant:

### **Robust Rosemary**

When we moved into Nottingham Forest almost a decade ago, one of our new neighbors had two lovely rosemary bushes growing next to the curb. They warmly encouraged us to take fresh cuttings from it whenever we needed any for a recipe and we accepted that offer many times over the years! The Ledbetter's rosemary was in many a pork tenderloin, roasted potatoes, and, especially, rosemary & garlic dinner rolls. When we started our own pandemic raised garden beds, rosemary was one of the first herbs purchased.

As a new, self-learning gardener I've had lots of failures, but the Tuscan and BBQ rosemary has endured multiple seasons, freezes and even being transplanted! The Tuscan variety has softer leaves, great for when used chopped raw as a garnish. It's more compact and fragrant than other varieties. The BBQ rosemary grows large, stronger stems and gets its name because you can use the stripped stems as a skewer! The leaves are a little tougher and hold up well in roast recipes. I especially like to use it for garnish to liven up platters and as cute swivel sticks in fall and winter drinks! The BBQ rosemary thrives on being ignored and in my case, took up too much valuable room in my garden box. We were able to transplant it to where a boxwood had stood next to the garage and where it now continues to grow.



Sadly, the neighbors' rosemary did not survive the big freeze but now I encourage my neighbors to help themselves whenever they need!

### **Rosemary & Garlic Dinner Rolls**

- \* 14 frozen yeast dinner rolls
- \* 1/4 c. butter melted
- \* 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- \* 1 stem fresh rosemary, chopped
- \* 1 tsp. flaky sea salt

#### ***Instructions***

1. Butter large pan
2. Place frozen rolls in pan (or casserole type dish) and cover with a dish cloth to rise for 5-6 hours
3. Mix garlic powder into melted butter and brush onto rolls
4. Sprinkle rolls with rosemary and sea salt
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes, serve immediately- enjoy!



## ***Some Videos of Note for September:***

What Can I Plant in the Fall - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHF4K7qejX8>

Cassia Candlestick plant - Host for Sulphur butterflies. <https://fb.watch/f3mffK21Zm/>



### **The Green Planet**

In what could be described as 'Planet Earth from the perspective of plants', Sir David Attenborough travels the world to explore the extraordinary ways in which plants have learnt to survive and thrive in almost every environment.

Available on Amazon Prime – was on PBS recently  
[https://www.amazon.com/Tropical-Worlds/dp/B0B5PLMKJJ/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=The+Green+Planet&qid=1661280978&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Tropical-Worlds/dp/B0B5PLMKJJ/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=The+Green+Planet&qid=1661280978&sr=8-1)

## ***Some Articles of Note for This Season:***

### **Plants for Hummingbirds**

#### **10 Great Nectar Plants that Attract Hummingbirds**

<https://www.chron.com/life/gardening/article/Plants-for-hummingbirds-1817345.php>

### **Fall Planting guide for Houston Gardeners**

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/life/gardening/article/Fall-planting-guide-for-Houston-gardeners-15520343.php>

### **What to Plant in Your Houston Garden in September**

<https://rootedgarden.com/blog/2021/9/2/what-to-plant-in-your-houston-garden-in-september>

### **What To Do About Cinch bugs**

<https://randylemmon.com/lawns/chinch-bugs/>

### **How to Grow Bush Beans in Houston**

<https://rootedgarden.com/blog/2020/5/8/how-to-grow-bush-beans-in-houston>

## GARDEN WORKSHOP

### *Succulent Pumpkin Workshop - spaces limited*



**Meet at *In the Garden* to make this live seasonal centerpiece.**

We will sit outside in the lovely gardens and Suzann (the owner) will demonstrate and assist participants to make a live succulent pumpkin. This should take no more than 1-2 hours – work at own pace.

Supplies will be provided - price will be determined on cost of succulents and pumpkins– approximately between \$40-\$50.

**Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>,  
12:00** \*Time to be confirmed

**Coming? Rsvp to  
Barbara**

**713-553-9264**

*In The Garden 1405 Cedar Post Lane – 77055*

(when I am back in town 9/24 I will collect a deposit and clarify detail





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## Fall Seeding Guide

indoors: ● outdoors: ○

Start Seeds By:

- Arugula — Early November
- Beets — Late October
- Broccoli — late August
- Cabbage — Mid August
- Cantaloupe — Mid August
- Carrots — Late October
- Cauliflower — Late August
- Corn — Early September
- Cucumber — Early September
- Green Beans — Early September
- Kale — Mid September
- Kohlrabi — Mid October
- Lettuce — Late October
- Okra — Early September
- Parsnips — Early September
- Peas — Early October
- Potatoes — late September
- Radishes — Early November
- Spinach — Mid November
- Swiss Chard — Late October
- Turnips — Late October
- Watermelon — Mid August
- Zucchini — Mid September

**On a Lighter Note**

