



April in the Garden

This month in your garden:

- **Prune** spring-blooming shrubs **after** flowers fade such as azaleas, wisteria, spirea and quince. Pinch tips of coleus to avoid flowering and encourage bushier and compact growth. Remove spent blooms on spring annuals to promote new blooms.
- **Birds** -Clean birdbaths often and keep feeders full, and clean them after rainstorms to prevent soggy spoiled seed. Even non-birders can keep fresh water and food out at this time (and also during fall migration) to help our feathered friends.
- **Feed** Fertilize azaleas (after bloom), hibiscus, and containers.
- **Mulch** -Mulch beds to discourage weeds, keep roots cool, and conserve moisture.
- **Pests** -Keep an eye out for pests as well as beneficial insects (such as lady bugs which eat aphids). Pick off pests by hand. Check for snails and slugs early in the month when they are active (sprinkle crushed eggshells around base of plants to deter them).
- **Plant** new shrubs early before heat arrives
- **Plant** summer blooming perennials and annuals.
- **Water** Maintain watering on newly planted seeds and transplants. Deep root watering on trees, lawns, and shrubs is best. It encourages roots to move down into the soil where they will be less susceptible to moisture changes. Avoid frequent short periods of watering.
- **Harvest** dill, parsley, cilantro, and lettuce that may already be bolting.
- **Plant herbs** such as basil, thyme, oregano, rosemary, lemon verbena & pineapple sage

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



April –
Garden Workshop – Thursday, April 7th

Easter Succulent Basket
at *In The Garden* 12:00

Meeting – Thursday, April 21st

Amy Watkin's Garden 1:00
Beautiful Gardening
guest speaker – *Emma Dowd*
Fort Bend Master Gardener

Field Trip – Friday, April 29th

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Meet in Club Parking Lot at 8:30

May –

Meeting – Thursday, May 12th

Mary Crain's garden 1:00
guest speaker- **Maggie Zamora*
Master Rosarian

Field Trip – Thursday, May 19th

Arbor Gate Nursery
Meet in Club Parking Lot at 12:00

Garden Workshop – Thursday, May 26th

Microgreens
at Barbara's place 1:00

Garden Happenings this Month



Pick Your Own

Pick your own Strawberries typically starts January and lasts through mid-May. Check for dates and time-

***Atkinson Farms**

3217 Spring Cypress Road, 77388
832-381-8202

http://www.atkinsonfarm.com/?fbclid=IwAR3uIDxMI3g_P-iX1IHzwO4_6oP-cP9tTsSNu0GtIFQWbw_xjpb1ppyEENU

***Froberg's Farm**

3601 Hwy 6, Alvin, TX 7751

<https://frobergsfarm.com>

Cooking with Nopales

Demonstration with Chef Victoria Elizondo
Saturday, April 16, 2022
10:00 — 11:30 am

<https://hbg.org/events/cooking-with-nopales-2022-04-16-10-00/>



Meditation with Garden Herbs

Rosemary

Saturday, April 23, 2022
10:00 — 11:30 am

<https://hbg.org/events/meditation-with-garden-herbs-2022-04-23-10-00/>

Spring Plant Sale at Houston Arboretum

A variety of Texas natives will be featured, including perennial and annual wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees. Attract butterflies, bees, and other pollinators to your yard or garden while helping to conserve water, reduce mowing, protect the soil, and save money on fertilizer and pesticides.

<https://houstonarboretum.org/event/spring-plant-sale-2/all/>

April 1 & 2 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



SAT. APR. 30: BROMELIAD SOCIETY/HOUSTON SPRING BROMELIAD SALE, 9am-4pm, Metropolitan Multi-services Center, 1475 W. Gray. Free.

bromeliadsocietyhouston.org



A Garden Club of America Flower Show

COLOR



Presented by **The Garden Club of Houston** **Contemporary Arts Museum Houston**
216 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006

April 21st 12:00pm – 4:00pm April 22nd 10:00am – 4p

Upcoming Classes:



Green Thumb Lecture Series

<https://hcmga.tamu.edu/2022-green-thumb-gardening-series/>

April 11th – *Water Conservation*

<https://hcc.idloom.events/community-learning-workshops/register>



Urban Harvest

**AN EDIBLE EDEN-TURNING
YOUR LANDSCAPE INTO A FOODSCAPE**
SAT. 4/9/2022 @ 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

This class uses well-established garden design practices to incorporate fruits, vegetables, herbs, and even edible flowers into the urban garden

https://www.urbanharvest.org/stec_event/an-edible-eden-turning-your-landscape-into-a-foodscape/

Garden to Kitchen – Let's dress up the butter!

As Bee in the March meeting mentioned, flowers can be incorporated into butter. This recipe is so versatile, you can use any herb and any edible flower you wish in any combination. You can choose to add garlic salt or completely delete it. The delicate flavors of the herbs and flowers combined with the sweet butter is enough. Play with the recipe, have fun and experiment. It is an easy, quick item to make to add elegance to any brunch or dinner. Serve it alongside roasted vegetables or with hot warm sourdough.

<https://www.anexplorerskitchen.com/recipes/garden-herb-compound-butter-with-edible-flowers>



Garden Herb Compound Butter with Edible Flowers

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Refrigeration time needed: 2 hours

Ingredients:

3 sticks butter, room temperature

½ cup shredded herbs and flowers

¼ -½ teaspoon garlic salt to taste (optional)
sometimes the sweet butter and herbs is just delicate enough

edible flowers for decorating (make sure you google the flowers you use so that you are not using anything poisonous) Flowering fruit tree blossoms are also very pretty to use



Directions:

1. Place the softened butter into a small mixing bowl.
2. Shred your herbs. I just used scissors and cut them
3. Add the shredded herbs and flowers to the butter, mix well. This is where you can get creative. I used fresh oregano, dill, parsley, chives, sage leaves, nasturtium flowers, geranium flowers, radish flowers and pansies. It doesn't take a lot. Maybe only a couple of sprigs of each herb.
4. Add the optional garlic salt. Try one with and one without to be creative.
5. Place the butter/herb mixture on a sheet of parchment. Form into a log with your fingers.
6. Decorate the top and sides with the flowers and herbs.
7. Invert the parchment onto a piece of pl of plastic wrap.
8. Refrigerate for 2 hours.



GARDEN CREATIONS

Bee also mentioned using edible flowers in an ice bucket. Although this is more of a Christmas design in the photo, the process can be used to include any seasonal flowers from your garden.

Here is a super easy DIY ice bucket that is fun to make and awe your guests.

All you will need is a carton from the grocery store (such as a milk carton or orange juice carton)), a favorite beverage in a bottle, and some greens, grasses, herbs, flowers, berries, oranges, etc. to add for color.

Flower Ice Bucket



DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut the top off of the container.
2. Place the beverage into the center of the carton.
3. Fill the carton with water about 3/4 full and add your flowers, fruit, greens, etc.. of choice.
4. Place in the freezer until frozen solid.
5. Let it freeze for about 12 hours or so
6. Peel off the carton

And you have a beautiful Ice Bucket! So simple and looks so elegant for any occasion!

<https://www.dabblinganddecorating.com/ice-bucket-diy-glamming-up-any-party-drink-station/>

Plant of the Month – Duranta



A tropical powerhouse, the golden dewdrop plant (more commonly known as duranta) is a fast-growing tropical shrub with beautiful blooms and fantastic foliage. With the potential to become quite large where they are hardy (some varieties reaching over 15 feet!), these plants make great, quick-growing, warm-season annuals, and can even act as houseplants. Grown primarily for its bountiful blue blooms, many varieties of duranta also have highly ornamental golden foliage.

genus name	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duranta erecta
light	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part Sun• Sun
plant type	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shrub
flower color	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blue• Purple• White
foliage color	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blue/Green• Chartreuse/Gold
season features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring Bloom• Fall Bloom• Summer Bloom
special features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low Maintenance• Attracts Birds & Pollinators

Lights Out for Birds



Each night and each light turned out helps save migrating birds!

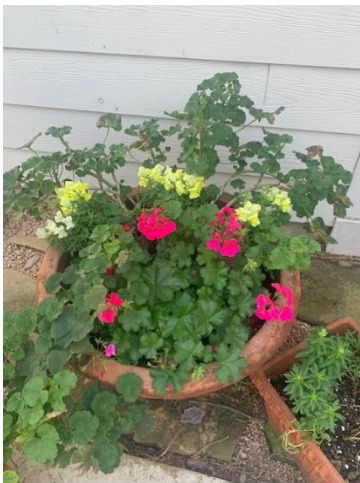
Most North American migratory birds fly at night, and lights on buildings can disorient birds on their paths, resulting in fatal collisions. The Upper Texas Coast plays a key role on the Central Flyway, an important migratory path for birds. Birds that move along and across the Gulf of Mexico depend on safe passage through the Houston-Galveston area. Throughout migration, and particularly during storm fronts, turning Lights Out for Birds can make a big difference.

Businesses, buildings, and individuals across the state are encouraged to turn off all nonessential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. throughout spring and fall migration. Spring Migration: March 1 - June 15. Peak period: April 23 - May 10
Fall Migration: Peak period: September 6 - October 11

These Are a Few of My Favorite Things

Ellen Popejoy shares her favorite garden flower:

Geraniums of all colors are my favorite bedding or potted flowers! They love our crazy spring weather, continue to bloom and flourish through July and then tend to get a bit tired in the heat of August. With their resiliency, however, they are easy to relocate from beds to pots and will continue to thrive. The pot on the left has a two year old geranium in the back and a fresh bloomer in the front, but within the next month it will be a pot full of colorful blooms:))!



The right one is in "recovery", but they never give up and it's just exciting to watch them as they grow into spring:)! 🌸

Some Videos of Note for April:

<https://buchanansplants.com/category/video/> **Pollinator Plants**

<https://buchanansplants.com/category/video/> **Hydrangeas**

https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=519034429442142&_rdr **Rooted Garden Tips for Growing Cucumbers**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0btXpcReVM> **How to Hand Pollinate Cucumbers**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9OMBjEtyV8> **Building a Butterfly Puddling Station**



The life cycle and uniquely long annual migration of North America's monarch *butterfly* is examined in this nature documentary. Available on Amazon Prime

Some Articles of Note for This Season

Tips for Growing the Magical Butterfly Pea Flower

<https://thehabitat.com/garden/tips-for-growing-the-magical-butterfly-pea-flower/>

Azalea care

<https://www.prewettread.com/azalea-care-houston/>

Plant for Pollinators

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/life/gardening/article/Plant-for-pollinators-15480258.php>

Hummingbird migration

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/lifestyle/home-garden/article/Hummingbird-migration-16369296.php>

On a Lighter Note...

