



This month in your garden:

- **Prune** Pinch tips of coleus to prevent flowering and encourage bushier, fuller plants. Remove spent blooms on spring and summer annuals to promote new blooms.
- **Birds** - Spring migration continues into mid-May. 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 flower beds and vegetable gardens with slow-release organic fertilizers
- **Weeds** - Be vigilant about pulling weeds early, make sure areas are mulched properly to prevent future weeds from germinating and help to retain moisture.
- **Pests** - Keep an eye out for pests as well as beneficial insects in your vegetable garden. Pick off pests by hand, check for slugs and snails early in the morning or in the evenings when they are active. (sprinkle crushed eggshells around base of plants to deter them).
- **Water** - 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 short periods of shallow watering, use a tree gator or soaker hose to aid in slow, deep watering.
- **Plant** - summer blooming perennials and annuals. Choose heat-tolerant plants like purslane and bougainvillea for hanging baskets in full sun
- **Plant** - okra, cucumbers, pumpkins, basil, garlic chives, peppers, long beans, eggplant, sweet potatoes, arugula, anise hyssop, garlic chives, ginger, lemon verbena, lemon grass, pineapple salvia, rosemary, and turmeric. Container veggie transplants from the nursery in larger pots are okay to plant during May
- **Lawn** - Continue to water between rain events, apply molasses or compost to ensure healthy soil for healthy turf roots.

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



May –
Meeting – Thursday, May 12th
Rebekah Bostick’s garden
1:00
guest speaker-
***Maggie Zamora**
Master Rosarian

Field Trip – Thursday, May 19th
Arbor Gate Nursery
Meet in Club Parking Lot
at 10:30

Garden Workshop – Monday, May 23rd
Microgreens
at Barbara’s place 1:00
guest lead- *Meg Tapp
President Houston Garden Club

June –
Garden Party, June 9th
Saundra Hartgrove’s garden -
evening
Food and drinks from the garden*

*potluck with seasonal dishes from garden

Garden Happenings this Month



Chmielewski Blueberry Farm
23810 Bauer Hockley Rd., Hockley TX 77447
281-304-0554
<http://chmielewski-blueberry.com/>

Pick Your Own

Pick your own blueberries typically starts late May and runs through June. Check the websites for updates or call for opening times-

Moorhead Blueberry Farm
19531 Moorhead Road
Conroe, TX 77302
281.572.1265
<https://www.moorheadsblueberryfarm.com/fin-d-us-2/>



Plants & Pain Relief

Consider Therapeutic Botanicals

Saturday, May 14, 2022

10:00 am — 12:00

<https://hbg.org/events/plants-pain-relief->



GOING NATIVE -

- A GARDEN TRANSFORMATION 5/11/2022

@ 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

https://www.urbanharvest.org/stec_event/going-native-a-garden-transformation/

Going native means gardening with native Texas plants which are adapted to our Gulf Coast climate. Native Texas plants tolerate our heavy clay soil and are suited to our climate extremes and than non-native species. They also provide excellent habitats and food for small insects, pollinators and wildlife. They are typically lower maintenance and require less water than other plants because they are adapted to our soil and climate.



ALL ABOUT PEPPERS: GROWING AND CARE FOR A SUCCESSFUL BOUNTY

TUES. JUNE 7, 2022, @ 7:00 - 8:00 PM

LIVE ZOOM CLASS

https://www.urbanharvest.org/stec_event/all-about-peppers-growing-care-for-a-successful-bounty/

Hibiscus Show Calendar
Lone Star Chapter American Hibiscus Society
Hibiscus Show and Plant Sales

Saturday, May 7, 2022,
at Sugar Land Knights of Columbus St. Basil Hall
702 Burney Rd. next to St. Theresa Catholic Church

SPECIAL plant selection from California and Louisiana
New varieties at the show
Open to Public- 1 PM TO 4 PM
Free Admission

Note: Growers wishing to enter blooms in show competitions must complete their entries by 11:30am.



Taiwan Starry Sky



Tahitian Magenta Double Star



Spectroflash



MON., MAY 9:

SUCCULENTS (virtual) by HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, 10-11:30am. Free. HCMG & Houston Community College event. Register: hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops

OR TUES., MAY 17: SUCCULENTS (virtual), 11am-noon, Harris County Master Gardeners/Harris County Public Library event. Free.

facebook.com/harriscountyp/levents/



TUES., MAY 10: GROWING

PLUMERIAS, 7pm, (ZOOM & in-person), Cherie Flores Garden Pavillion, 1500 Hermann Dr. Free. Plumeria Society of America event. theplumeriasociety.org; 281-796-7185



Daylily Sales

The club periodically holds Daylily sales to raise money to fund club activities. These sales are an excellent source for daylilies and prices are reasonable.

The next scheduled plant sale is:

Saturday May 7th, 2022 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Location: 5705 Pinemont Drive in Houston
(next to CVS at Pinemont and Antoine)

Members will be available to answer your daylily questions.

All daylilies are in 1.5 gallon pots and priced \$10.00 - \$15.00.

The following are the cultivars we currently have for the 2022 sale.



Garden to Kitchen – Beautiful bountiful BASIL:

Basil is a summer favorite and loves the heat. The traditional basil is *Sweet Basil*, which is what is most frequently grown.



Basil grows well in Houston in the summer – keep an eye on the water – during the hottest time of the summer potted basil may need a bit more water, and will appreciate a bit of shade, too. Pinch the flowers to keep the leaves coming. However, if you have pots and pots of basil, consider leaving some plants to flower – bees love basil blooms.

There are many varieties of basil – many of which Buchanan’s carries. And seeds can be purchased from both Johnny’s Seeds https://www.johnnyseeds.com/search/?q=basil&lang=en_US and Botanical Interests https://www.botanicalinterests.com/category/Basil?sscid=41k6_vyw1b among others for those that want to try growing from seed.

African Basil has a purple tinge on the leaves, and purple blooms – it can be used in flower bouquets. *Thai Basil* is another variety which is often used in Asian cooking - it boasts a spicy, licorice flavor. To read up on more types of basil, check out this article: <https://howtoculinaryherbgarden.com/types-of-basil/>

What to do with your crop of BASIL?

Basil Infused Oil – simple and good on everything...

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup packed fresh basil leaves, stemmed and washed
- 1/4 cup good extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon water
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes



Instructions

1. Place the basil, water, garlic, salt and red pepper flakes in a mini-food processor and pulse a few times. Add the olive oil and blend until you have smooth sauce.
2. Use immediately or refrigerate. Flavors are even more intense the next day. Refrigerate for up to 2 to 3 days.

<https://www.skinnytaste.com/basil-oil/>

Fresh Basil Butter – simple to make – try on steak, cornbread and more...

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened at room temperature
- 1/2 cup finely chopped sweet basil
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- 1/2 tsp. freshly grated lemon zest
- 1/2 tsp. ground white pepper
- Kosher salt

Make Ahead Tips

The butter will keep in the refrigerator for up to two weeks or in the freezer for a month.



<https://www.finecooking.com/recipe/basil-butter>

Preparation

- In a bowl, combine the butter, basil, garlic, lemon zest, white pepper, and 1/2 tsp. kosher salt and mash with a spoon until well combined.
- Use immediately as a spread for corn on the cob, grilled vegetables, or dinner rolls. Or use plastic wrap to shape the basil butter into a log, tightening the ends as if it were a sausage. Refrigerate until very firm. Slice into 1/4-inch-thick coins and melt over just-off-the-grill chicken or pork cutlets, fish fillets, or vegetables.

Mint and Basil Lemonade–

This recipe for mint and basil lemonade is so easy, but it takes a little bit of time to steep the herby simple syrup



<https://oursaltykitchen.com/mint-basil-lemonade/>

Instructions

1. Muddle the basil and mint leaves using a [mortar and pestle](#). Alternatively, muddle the herbs in a small bowl using a [muddler](#) or the back of a wooden spoon.
2. Combine the honey and half a cup of water in a small pot on the stove until the liquid just barely comes to a boil, stirring occasionally to dissolve the honey. Remove from heat.
3. Pour the honey simple syrup over the muddled herbs and then allow to steep and cool at room temperature, 30 minutes and up to several hours (the longer it steeps, the more flavor it will impart).
4. Strain the simple syrup into a pitcher or a quart sized mason jar. Use a mason jar if proceeding with the sparking or cocktail variations (see notes).
5. Juice 8-10 lemons until you have 1.5 to 2 cups of fresh squeezed lemon juice. Use less for sweeter lemonade, more for a tarter lemonade. We love our [electric juicer](#) for this purpose!
6. Combine the mint and basil simple syrup with the lemon juice and remaining water in a large pitcher, along with 2 cups of ice. Stir.
7. Pour over ice and serve with a sprig each of mint and basil.

Ingredients

- ½ c fresh basil leaves, plus extra sprigs for garnish
- ½ c fresh mint leaves, plus extra sprigs for garnish
- ½ c honey
- 8 c filtered water, divided
- 1.5-2 c fresh squeezed lemon juice

GARDEN CREATIONS

Rock Garden Markers – for those of you who have vegetable gardens & want fun markers, read on...



DIY Chalkboard Pebble Garden Markers

You will need: Pebbles, chalkboard paint, a brush and a white permanent marker. Chalkboard paint is normally used for painting on smooth surfaces (such as walls, wood or particle board) to make chalkboards, but using it on the pebbles make them to look like small chalkboards, even if the text is permanent.

Instructions: Wash the pebbles and paint them with chalkboard paint and let dry. The paint dries in about 30 minutes. Paint two coats if needed. Now write on the pebbles and you're done!

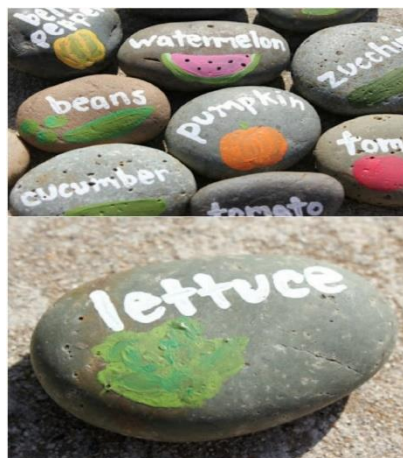
<http://craftandcreativity.com/blog/category/garden/>

Hand Painted Rock Garden Markers

This is so simple and it saves you a bundle over buying those rock markers already done.



You can find river rocks at any home improvement store (like Lowes, Home Depot, etc), at garden



centers and craft supply stores like Michaels.

You will also need some acrylic outdoor paint, such as Patio Paint:

https://www.amazon.com/ACRYLIC-PATIO-PAINT-FAVORITES-SAMPLER/dp/B017ABPLR8/ref=as_l

<https://www.familycorner.com/?ie=UTF8&qid=1465685444&sr=8-1&keywords=Patio+Paint+sealer&linkCode=sl1&tag=thefamilycorne02&linkId=df01f68c6b1bfd78c3d52305b0d848e9>

Paint desired design – with words and small picture Once dry, might want to add varnish or clear outdoor spray paint for added protection.



Plant of the Month – Purslane



Purslane, often called Portulaca, is a drought tolerant flowering plant that is often grown as a low maintenance annual.

Ornamental portulacas are closely related to common purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*), an edible weed. They are useful in areas with poor soil where other plants struggle to grow and are versatile as a ground cover, bedding plant, in containers or hanging baskets. This fast grower is attractive to bees and butterflies. Comes in all sorts of bright colors. Needs sun to bloom – can handle the Houston summer heat!

These Are a Few of My Favorite Things

Lori Porter shares her favorite garden flower:



Peggy Martin Rose Vine

Admittedly, when Barbara asked me to write about one of my favorite garden elements, it was difficult to choose just one. I love the balance created in a Parterre garden with tidy hedgerows and herbs, seasonal flowers or vegetables popping up in between. Like most gardeners, I prefer to grow things which aren't fussy and can withstand the full gamut of heat, humidity, drought, frost, and sometimes snow that Houston has to offer.

While hydrangeas are a perennial favorite of mine, they can be difficult to grow in the Houston Climate. Some

high-performing annuals such as Begonias and Pentas will go through spring and last all summer long, providing gorgeous color with little worry about the heat, drought or humidity, but usually appear worse for wear by August.

So, I've chosen to highlight the Peggy Martin Rose as a favorite. She has the wow-power of the Hydrangea combined with the vigor of the aforementioned annuals. An added bonus is that she blooms for several months at a time, twice a year, in Fall and again in the Spring, and when not in bloom, still provides interest with foliage. She will add beauty to otherwise mundane subjects such as garages, fences, and downspouts.

Peggy's history is an interesting one. Originally named for a member of the New Orleans Old Garden Rose Society, Peggy Martin, this variety came from her garden cuttings and was only one of two species to survive two weeks under twenty feet of saltwater after Hurricane Katrina. She is mostly thornless, is disease resistant, is fast-growing (mine, pictured here, was planted just two years ago and was only 2' tall at the time) is easy to maintain, attracts bees, makes lovely cuttings, and is a beautiful symbol of resilience and fortitude. I encourage you to plant a Peggy Martin Rose Vine!

Some Videos of Note for April:

<https://www.facebook.com/InTheGardenHTX/videos/521277426119390> The many different kinds of basil

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=547884729993873> Sun loving options for Houston summer sun. Lots of options.

<https://www.facebook.com/ArborGate/videos/2489402514418554> Planning an Insectary Garden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9OMBJEtyV8> Building a Butterfly Puddling Station

<https://www.facebook.com/ArborGate/videos/1176552232370262> Herb Infused Summer Cocktails



My Garden of a Thousand Bees follows acclaimed wildlife filmmaker Martin Dohrn, who, locked down by coronavirus, turns his lenses on the surprising and spectacular bees living in his own urban garden in Bristol, England.

Watch ***My Garden of a Thousand Bees*** online for free at pbs.org/nature and the [PBS Video app](#).

<https://www.mygardenofathousandbees.com/>

Some Articles of Note for This Season

Your Houston garden needs native bees. Here's the buzz

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/life/gardening/article/Your-Houston-garden-needs-native-bees-15287310.php>

Houston-area pollinators abuzz over native plants in an Oak Forest garden

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/life/gardening/article/Oak-Forest-habitat-is-a-sanctuary-for-pollinators-13210687.php>

Texas Superstars -Top 10 Texas Superstar plants

<https://www.chron.com/life/gardening/article/Texas-Superstars-1703725.php>

A Greener View: Add butterfly garden to your home landscape

<https://www.chron.com/sponsored/article/A-Greener-View-Add-butterfly-garden-to-your-home-17063821.php>

On a Lighter Note...

