



This month in your garden:

- **Freeze** - Continue to keep an eye on the weather and stay informed on night time lows. . If the temperature drops below 32, double wrap tender plants to ensure proper insulation. Avoid using plastic against foliage, but it can be used as the second exterior layer when covering plants. Remove plastic during the day.
- **Water**- Maintain watering on newly planted seeds and transplants. Continue to deep water trees and shrubs. A well-hydrated plant holds up to frosts and freezes better than a drought-stressed plant.
- **Move** -Now is the time to move shrubs or young trees to a new location if needed
- **Feed** - Fertilize pansies and other cool season flowers
- **Plant**- Strawberries hanging baskets are an ideal way to grow the berries to avoid fungus and insects attacking the fruit.
- **Plant** -Tomatoes can be transplanted into pots that can be brought inside for frosts and freezes; later on (after last frost) they can be planted in larger pots or in the ground
- **Plant**- Lettuce can be started from seed, for continual harvesting. Set out fresh seeds every 2-3 weeks through the cool season.
- **Plant Citrus** - Now is the time to purchase new fruit and citrus trees. Wait to plant until after the danger of freeze, around the end of February
- **Help the birds** - Keep bird feeders stocked for both winter residents and migrating species. Keep bird baths scrubbed and filled with clean water. Get nest boxes ready
- **Cut** - Cut ornamental grass to within inches of the ground. New shoots will emerge before long
- **Prune** – After Valentine’s day prune following grandifloras, floribundas, hybrid teas and miniature roses. Climbing roses bloom on last year’s growth and are only pruned after their spring bloom
- **Prune** -If freeze-free at the end of the month, prune duranta, esperanza and hibiscus back to live (green wood)
- **Fertilize** – fertilize established trees and shrubs, except Azaleas and camellias with a good all-around organic fertilizer like MicroLife

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



February –

Garden Workshop – Thursday, February 3rd

Meals on Wheels Planter

*To be confirmed

Meeting – Thursday, February 17th

Lori Porter’s Garden - 1:00

guest speaker- *Chris Culp*,

owner Tall Plants

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

March –

Meeting – Thursday, March 10th

Susan Pugliano’s garden 1:00

guest speaker – *Bee Holleran*

owner Flora Cocina

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

Field Trip – Monday, March 28th

Enchanted Forest Garden Center

Meet in Club parking Lot at 12:15

Garden Happenings this Month–

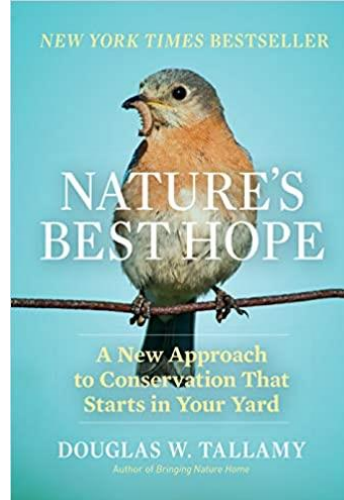
ALL NEW
HOUSTON
HOME
+GARDEN
SHOW

EVENT DATES

- Friday, February 4, 2022: 12:00am – 8:00pm
- Saturday, February 5, 2022: 10:00am – 8:00pm
- Sunday, February 6, 2022: 11:00am – 5:00pm

<https://www.nrgpark.com/events/houston-home-garden-show-2022/>

NATURE'S BEST HOPE: Dr. Douglas Tallamy, author of Nature's Best Hope and Bringing Nature Home, will speak on **Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard**, outlining how conservation efforts by homeowners can provide habitat for native species. Presented by The Garden Club of Houston, **10-11:15 a.m. Feb 16**. Free; St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road; <https://www.gchouston.org/lectures/>



Pick Your Own

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

Froberg's Farm
3601 Hwy 6, Alvin, TX 7751
<https://frobergsfarm.com>

Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR February 5 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am

The first Saturday of each month, a guided van tour of the refuge will take visitors on a two-hour trip through the prairie. Join refuge volunteers and staff to learn about native coastal prairie, the history of the refuge, the biology of the Attwater's prairie-chicken, and what's being done to save it from extinction.

By reservation only. 12 people maximum – please call 979-234-3021 to make a reservation.



Upcoming Classes:

GROWING FRUIT TREES IN SMALL SPACES: SPRING PREPARATION
SAT. 2/12/2022 @ 9:30AM - 11:30 AM
LIVE ZOOM CLASS

https://www.urbanharvest.org/stec_event/growing-fruit-trees-in-small-spaces-spring/

From the Harris County Master Gardener's Free Gardening Class

Green Thumb 2022 Gardening Series

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Harris County Master Gardeners are pleased to offer the FREE *Green Thumb Gardening Series of Lectures*
Got questions? Go to hcmga.tamu.edu/ask-a-question/

Second Monday, 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Houston Community College @Home Gardening Series

Register in advance to receive the link: hccs.edu/community-learning-workshops
Second Monday of each month

January 10 – *Gardening in Small Spaces*
February 14 – *Spring Vegetable Gardening*
March 7 – *Composting*
April 11 – *Water Conservation*
May 9 – *Succulents*

June 13 – *Gardening Open Forum*
July 11 – *Fall Vegetable Gardening*
August 8 – *Herbs 101*
September 12 – *Plant Propagation*
October 10 – *Citrus Trees*

Third Tuesday, 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Harris County Public Library Facebook Live

No reservation required – facebook.com/harriscountypyl/events/
Third Tuesday of each month

January 18 – *Gardening in Small Spaces*
February 15 – *Spring Vegetable Gardening*
March 15 – *Composting*
April 19 – *Water Conservation*
May 17 – *Succulents*

June 21 – *Gardening Open Forum*
July 19 – *Fall Vegetable Gardening*
August 16 – *Herbs 101*
September 20 – *Plant Propagation*
October 18 – *Citrus Trees*



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Garden to Kitchen – What to do with all your herbs?

Did you plant some cool weather herbs back in November? If not you still have time to plant some cool weather herbs like cilantro and parsley before things heat up.

And for those of you that did plant herbs and have lots for harvesting, Here are some ideas as to what you can do with them:



- **Use them in Salads –**

If you love a big, green salad, it's time to think beyond the romaine (or spinach, or arugula) and start adding fresh herbs to the mix. Stick with tender herbs like parsley, cilantro, chervil, tarragon, mint, and dill—save the woodier herbs, like sage and rosemary, for cooking. Rinse them clean, pat dry, then pull the leaves from the stems and add them, whole, to any salad. The big pieces of herb add a fresh note to greens, much like citrus zest. Go easy on the dressing—a light vinaigrette is a much better match for herbs than a creamy buttermilk ranch. Want to bulk it up? Cooked meat, like steak or sautéed ground lamb, and grains, like bulgur wheat, make it a meal.

<https://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1017768-soft-herb-salad>

<https://cravingcalifornia.com/herb-salad-with-shaved-parmesan/>

<https://ottolenghi.co.uk/recipes/green-herb-salad>

- **Make a cup of tea –**

<https://feastandfarm.com/14-lemon-balm-benefits/> **Lemon Balm Tea**

<https://www.mariaushakova.com/2017/08/how-to-make-thyme-tea/> **Thyme Tea**

<https://www.mariaushakova.com/2011/12/homemade-ginger-tea-with-mint/> **Ginger Mint Tea**

<https://www.acouplecooks.com/rosemary-tea/> **Rosemary Tea**

<https://www.masalaherb.com/oregano-tea/> **Oregano Tea**

<https://www.thespruceeats.com/easy-fresh-mint-tea-recipe-766391> **Mint Tea**

- **Cook a simple syrup –**

Add a big handful of fresh herbs to a basic mixture of equal parts sugar and water, bring to a boil, stir, and then remove from the heat. Once completely cooled, strain out the herbs (discard), and use the simple syrup to sweeten iced coffee and tea, cocktails, and anything else your heart desires. Mint works well in a simple syrup, and rosemary syrup is tasty in lattes—adds an unexpected savory-sweet twist.

GARDEN CREATIONS *DIY Bath Bombs* <https://theprudentgarden.com/garden-fresh-herb-wreath/>



Why not use those herbs to make a wreath? Woody stem herbs such as thyme, rosemary, oregano and sage work best for this type of wreath

Supplies

- Floral paddle wire
- Floral snips/scissors
- Fresh herbs
- 12-inch wireframe



Instructions

1. Make herb bundles:
 - Cut wire strips 6 inches long,
 - Cut a few sprigs of herbs and form them into a bundle. Use the six-inch wire to wrap the bundle of herbs.
 - Trim the ends so that they are even
2. Make the wreath:
 - Cut another wire strip 6 inches long,
 - Make and wire another herb bundle. Trim the ends so that they are even
 - Lay the bundle just below the previous bundle, slightly overlapping each other.
 - Repeat with another bundle, making sure you are slightly overlapping and alternating sides of the previous bundle.
 - Once the frame is filled with herb bundles, trim off any wayward sprigs.
3. Hang the wreath:
 - The herbs will dry on the frame and can be used later in your favorite dishes.

Plant of the Month – Fuchsia



While fuchsias are not native to Houston, you will see them in the nurseries this time of year. These flowers are often found in hanging baskets due to their cascading habit. Fuchsias hate our summers, but these colorful exotics are an antidote to our freeze-flattened gardens this time of year.

Fuchsias are native to Mexico, southern Chile and Argentina, and like sun and partial

shade, especially as the days grow warmer. Provide a fertile, slightly moist, well-draining soil.

Another added bonus to hanging one of these from a tree? *Hummingbirds love them* – and yes there are a few hummingbirds around right now!

Some Videos of Note for February:

<https://www.facebook.com/ArborGate/videos/2339815509377256> **Succession Planting**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyxnHID-AhY> **How to prune a rose bush**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_x24G6Qncg **How to prune Citrus**

<https://arborgate.com/blog/how-to-videos/how-to-kill-a-houseplant/> **How to kill a Houseplant**

<https://buchanansplants.com/video/tomato-planting-basics/> **Remi talks about tomato planting basics**

Some Articles of Note for This Season

Discovering versatile and resilient camellias

<https://www.chron.com/life/article/Discovering-versatile-and-resilient-camellias-2752914.php>

On a Lighter Note...

