



This month in your garden:

- **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.
- **Freezes**- Have frost cloth on hand to cover tender plants in case of freezing weather. Wrap plants completely down to ground level. The fewer drafts that move under the frost cloth, the better.
- **Mulch**- Mulch to protect from cold and keep small weeds from growing larger.
- **Plant Vegetables** from transplants like broccoli, cauliflower, strawberries, collards, and lettuce.
- **Plant Seeds** for lettuce, radish, and carrots. Begin seeding spring tomatoes inside.
- **Plant Rosebushes** in prepared soil where they receive 6-8 full hours of sun every day. Prune rosebushes in February.
- **Plant Fruiting Plants** such as blueberries and blackberries; it is a good time to get them established.
- **Help the birds** -Keep bird baths scrubbed and filled with clean water. Keep seed in feeders fresh. After rain check for moist or damp seed, replace promptly to keep birds healthy and happy. Continue to put out suet cakes for high energy winter snacks.
- **Hold off on pruning** -Crepe Myrtles need no pruning. If you must, you may shape gently now, but don't commit Crepe Murder. Wait to prune spring-flowering trees such as deciduous magnolias, Mexican plums, and redbuds until after they bloom.



Save The Date

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

January–

Meeting – Thursday, January 20th

Mary Ellen Hensley’s Garden - 1:00

guest speaker- *Cory McMullen*,

owner Urban Organics - <https://urbanorganicsonline.com/>

Field Trip – Thursday, January 27th

Meet in Club parking Lot at 12:30

Buchanan’s Nursery

February –

Garden Workshop – Thursday, February 3rd

Meals on Wheels Planter

*To be confirmed

Meeting – Thursday, February 17th

Lori Porter’s garden 1:00

Garden Happenings this Month–

[Wabash Feed & Garden Store](#)

4537 N Shepherd Dr, Houston, TX

Come explore tried and true tricks of the trade for organically prepping, restoring and sustaining healthy organic garden soil.



Upcoming Classes

HEALTHY LIVING: GARDENING MICROGREENS & COLD CROPS

WED. 1/26, 2022 @ 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

LIVE ZOOM CLASS



https://www.urbanharvest.org/stec_event/healthy-living-gardening-micorgreens-cold-crops/

Coming in February

Houston Home & Garden Show

**ALL NEW
HOUSTON
HOME
+GARDEN
SHOW**

**Feb 4- Feb 6
NRG Center,
NRG Park.1**

Garden to Kitchen – Don't Throw Away the Greens!

Do you go to a farmer's market? Do you have some carrots, cauliflower or broccoli growing in your kitchen garden? Well, you may be overlooking some extra greens –

- **Carrot tops**
- **Beet tops**
- **Broccoli leaves**
- **Cauliflower leaves**

Are all edible! Check out these links to learn more – greens are good for us!

- **Carrot tops –**
Use for pesto or chimichurri

Carrot top pesto : <https://emilyfabulous.com/carrot-greens-pesto/>

Carrot greens chimichurri:

<https://www.loveandlemons.com/carrot-greens-chimichurri/>

- **Beet tops –**
Saute or use in salads or soups

Sautee: <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/sauteed-beet-greens-3363462>

Pasta: <https://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/farfalle-with-golden-beets-beet-greens-and-pine-nuts-351260>

Salad: <https://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/roasted-beet-salad-with-beet-greens-and-feta-3188>

- **Broccoli leaves –**
Use for vegetable broth or in soups – taste like kale

Vegetable broth: <https://brooklynfarmgirl.com/broccoli-leaves-vegetable-broth/>

Soup <https://www.finecooking.com/recipe/broccoli-leaf-tortellini-soup>

- **Cauliflower leaves –**
Try roasting the leaves

Roasted with cauliflower: <https://tasty.co/recipe/roasted-cauliflower-and-cauliflower-leaves>

Saute with Pine nuts: <https://www.cropdrop.co.uk/recipes/cauliflower-leaves-garlic-currants-pine-nuts-and-isot-pul-biber>



GARDEN CREATIONS *DIY Bath Bombs* <https://gardentherapy.ca/diy-bath-bombs/>



This bath bomb recipe will show you how to make DIY bath bombs filled with plant-based natural color and scents.

Equipment

- plastic molds in the shape of your choice
- spray bottle

Supplies

- 2 cups **baking soda**
- 1 cup **citric acid**
- 100% **pure witch hazel**
- 20-30 drops **100% pure essential oils**
- natural colorant green: spirulina, yellow: turmeric, purple: ratanjot

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, measure in the **baking soda** and **citric acid** and mix well.
2. Add a 1/2 teaspoon of coloring and mix well. If needed, slowly add more colour.
3. Add 20 drops of essential oils and mix well.
4. Use an atomizer or spray bottle filled with **witch hazel**, then spray the entire surface of the powder mix and mix with your hands.
5. Keep spraying and mixing rapidly until the mixture holds together when scrunched with your hand (think of making snowballs).
6. Working quickly, firmly press mixture into the **DIY bath bombs molds**.
7. Gently tap the mold so that the bath bomb releases and carefully lay on a towel or tray to dry.
8. Let the DIY bath bombs dry for 30 minutes or until they are firm and won't fall apart.

Notes

To make a round bath bomb, over-fill two round halves and press them together firmly before tapping the molds to release the bath bomb. Or you could simply package them up in pairs in an organza bag.

Some Videos of Note for This Month:

<https://www.facebook.com/ArborGate/videos/1628624697304498> **How to Grow Sprouts at Home**

<https://www.click2houston.com/video/houston-life/2021/11/10/rooted-gardens-nicole-burke-shares-tips-on-growing-fresh-salad-greens-in-your-own-garden--houston-life--kprc-2/> **Tips on Growing Fresh Salad Greens**

<https://www.click2houston.com/houston-life/2019/09/17/how-to-create-a-container-garden-in-houston-this-fall/>
Tips for Growing Salad Bowl Garden

Some Articles of Note for This Season:

Tips to start a new beginning in the garden this January

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/life/gardening/article/New-beginnings-in-the-garden-15851421.php>

(click on New beginnings in link or copy and paste link)

12 ways to get more out of your garden in 2022

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/lifestyle/home-garden/article/12-ways-to-get-more-out-of-your-garden-in-2022-16736233.php#photo-21869255>



***Have a Gardening Question?
Ask a Master Gardener!***

Email your gardening questions to Harris County Master Gardeners-

Use this link for more info on how to get those tricky questions answered:

<https://hcmga.tamu.edu/ask-a-question/>

On a Lighter Note...

