



# THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA IN ARLINGTON



Volume 46

March, 2018

Number 1

## AMGC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Ten Secrets to a Successful Spring Vegetable Garden:

#### 1. Prepare The Soil First "Build on a good foundation."

Soil is the foundation of a garden. Most of us start with something too sandy, too clayey, or too poor. And unless you have been working on it, your soil is probably low in organic matter, the life of good soil. Before one seed or transplant goes in, build up your soil with a few inches of compost and whatever nutrients may be lacking. A soil test is a good start to let you know where you are, what you need to add, and how much.

If you find yourself the victim of an impulse purchase, standing there with a flat full of transplants staring at a barren plot, just set them down and go lie down to let the fever subside a bit. Then go out and start building your soil with compost and at least a start of nutrients. Even if you have to water those plants for a few days while you get the ground ready, you will be glad you waited to plant until the soil was properly prepared.



The Ellis County Master Gardeners Expo is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 24, from 9am to 5pm at the Waxahachie Community Center. For those members who would like to travel with our group, we meet up at the Mansfield Kohl's (287 & Broad St.) at 8am. Please park away from Kohl's doors and park close to the frontage-road side. Mike Auriene will bring a cart that all are welcome to use to carry any heavy items to your cars.

Hope to see you there!



Bring a Friend This Month!

### NEXT MEETING

March 19 at 7:00pm (every 3rd Monday)

Garden Room of the Bob Duncan Center

2800 South Center Street, Arlington, Texas

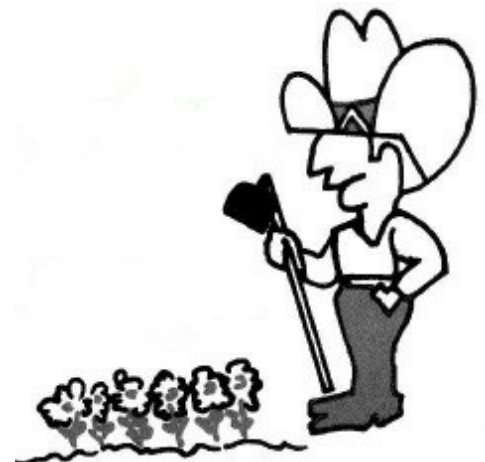
**March Speaker**

**Susie Marshall**

**'GROW North Texas'**



**GROW North Texas is a non-profit that works to connect North Texans to food, farms, and community in order to create a sustainable, secure regional food system that enriches the land, encourages economic opportunity through food and agriculture, and provides equitable access to healthy, nutritious food for all residents. Susie will speak on her organization and volunteer opportunities.**



**INVITE A FRIEND TO THIS MONTH'S MEETING!**

**OFFICERS**

- President ..... Otto Witt
- Past President ..... Billy Clark
- 1st Vice President ... Clint Probst
- 2nd Vice President .. Michael Auriene
- Secretary ..... Diane Posey
- Treasurer ..... Elbert Seal
- Directors (Exp 2018) D. Holman & L. Jepson
- Directors (Exp 2019) G. Coe & E. Seal
- Directors (Exp 2020) Sam Dews

**APPOINTED COMMITTEES**

- Audit ..... Coe & Jepson
- Awards ..... Billy Clark
- By-Laws ... Sam Dews
- Finance ..... Elbert Seal
- Plant Show ... Elbert Seal
- House ..... Auriene & Holman
- Programs ... Clint Probst
- Publicity ..... Clint Probst
- Scholarship ... Auriene & Schemensky
- Sunshine Report ... Richard Harrell
- Home & Garden Show Jepson
- Christmas Banquet Michael Auriene
- Membership ..... Billy Clark
- Nominations .....
- Photographer ..... Lance Jepson
- Newsletter & Website Clint Probst
  
- National Director.....Michael Auriene



**OUR  
SUNSHINE  
REPORT**



AMGC Members and/or their family's health conditions and well-being, as received, are listed below. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Thoughts and prayers appreciated for our members with health issues. Elbert Seal is feeling better after a bout with the flu. His wife, Charlene, needs our prayers.

**Snack Volunteers, : ?**

**Please Sign up at our next meeting for snacks!**



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Annual Newsletter Ad Rates:

\$35 (3.5x2 in) and \$100 (3.5x3 in); refer advertisement contacts to our Treasurer.

**Speaker Spotlight**

**February 19—Otto Witt: 'Seed Propagation'**

**March 19—Susie Marshall: 'GROW North Texas'**

# March

## Gardeners To Do List For March

**Average Date of Last Freeze in Dallas County: March 4 - 12**

### Planting

- **Plant ornamental trees and shrubs while the weather is still cool.**
- **Divide and replant fall flowering plants such as asters and mums.**
- **Complete transplanting of established woody plants before bud break.**
- **Plant cool season flowers such as alyssum, daisies, dianthus, and geraniums (mid to late March).**
- **Plant spinach, radishes, lettuce, through mid April. Also plant snap beans, cucumbers, sweet corn, lima beans, mustard, tomatoes, and squash late March when soil temperatures are warm enough for each variety.**
- **Begin to plant warm season flowers as temperatures increase towards the end of the month and as they become available in nurseries.**

### Pruning

- **Prune back overgrown ground cover such as English ivy and Asian jasmine to maintain the height you prefer. Do so before new growth begins.**
- **Cut back ornamental grasses before new growth appears.**
- **Remove winter-damage from shrubs and other ornamentals.**
- **Do not prune spring flowering shrubs and vines, until after blooming such as forsythia, quince, azaleas, spirea, etc.**
- **Allow foliage on spring bulbs such as daffodils to die back and dry before removing, to create food for next year's plants.**

### Plant Care

- **Based on a soil test fertilize established shade trees, ornamental trees, and shrubs as spring growth begins.**
- **Based on a soil test fertilize pecan and fruit trees before bud break. (See plantanswers.com <<http://plantanswers.com>> for more details)**
- **Check new growth on ornamental plants weekly for aphids and scale insects and treat if necessary.**
- **Mow fescue/ryegrass lawns, now growing vigorously, at five day intervals, or as needed.**
- **Fertilize fescue lawns in early March as per soil test results.**
- **Continue to feed pansies and other cool season annuals to extend their bloom season.**
- **Continue to protect tender plants from late freezes.**

**Arlington Men's Garden Club  
(AMGC)**

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**First Class Mail**

