

AUGUST 2020

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

TCFPC Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture Working Group

CGUA NEWS

Virtual CGUA Meeting on September 17th at 3pm - The Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture working group will begin meeting again in September! Join us via Zoom to catch up on our ongoing projects. Bring a friend, your new project ideas, and a willingness to lend a hand. If needed, email Dave for the Zoom details.

August 6th Council Meeting at 4pm:

Join the August Council Meeting virtually via Zoom to learn and participate:

- **Guest Presenters from Common Threads** - Learn more about the gardening and cooking resources they offer along with new virtual resources.
- **Working group leaders will present** to help encourage more participation and share progress on ongoing projects.
- **Nominations Committee will announce open board seats.** If you are wanting to be more involved with TCFPC, nominate yourself or a colleague for open board seats.

For questions and more information about CGUA, contact our Chair, Dave Aftandilian at d.aftandilian@tcu.edu.



DIG DEEP: A CONFERENCE FOR GROWERS

BY BECCA KNUTSON

Like many events in 2020, Dig Deep: A Conference for Growers moved to an online format. Gardeners from across the country (and even a few from the UK) gathered virtually to learn more about growing edible plants. With over 300 registrants, this virtual event exceeded its expected capacity. Many appreciated the flexibility of the online platform. Participants could tend to their gardens between live sessions and pause to take notes during pre-recorded video sessions.

Session topics included school gardens, food preservation, urban farming and growing as activism. Pre-recorded video content and recommended reading lists will be available to the public after August 5th at tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org/dig-deep-conference-2020.

While the virtual format had its benefits, the in-person experience was missed. To alleviate that disconnected feeling, the conference offered live sessions, breakout sessions, and a virtual lunch so attendees could ask questions and enjoy the company of like-minded folks.

If all goes well, Dig Deep 2021 will be held in person at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) on July 17th, 2021. Save the date - we hope to see you there!

Virtual Events

TCFPC

Council Meeting.

Aug. 6th, 4PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87337634520>

TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK

Kitchen Garden
Cooking School -
Okra August 12

Organic Pest
Control August 21

tarrantareafoodbank.eventbrite.com

WATER UNIVERSITY

Drip Irrigation
DIY August 4

Family Friendly
Gardening, August 11

Weed 'Em and Reap:
Weeds and Watering
August 18

wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events

BRIT

Plants go to War: A
Botanical History of
WWII

July 11

brit.org/events

SAT. & WED. 8AM-12PM

Cowtown Farmers
Market

3821 SOUTHWEST BLVD.





I have only to break into the tightness of a strawberry, and I see summer – its dust and lowering skies."

TONI MORRISON



August To-Do

Plant another round of warm season vegetable plants, like squash, beans, and corn.

Plant flowers like marigold, zinnia, purslane, and wildflowers.

Prune declining flowering plants to encourage blooms.

Add a layer of straw or leaf mulch to help retain moisture and inhibit weed growth.

Harvest okra, eggplant, peppers, cucumbers and squash, and melons as they are ready.

PEACH PESTS PRESENT PESTILENCE

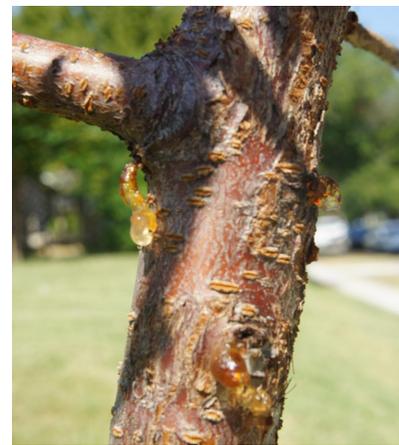
BY HARRISON GIBSON

The lesser peachtree borer (*Synanthedon pectipes*) is what many gardeners refer to as a "bad bug", since it lays claim to the title of most destructive insect pest to peach and other stone fruit trees. What makes the borer particularly dangerous is that its damage is often unnoticed and unchecked until symptoms appear, and by then the damage can be both extensive and severe. On top of that, the parasites are particularly difficult to root out, since they live and thrive beneath the surface of the bark for part of their life-cycle. If left unchecked, these insects can cause girdling and even tree death. To prevent these ends, its worth take a look at the bug to better understand it.

Peachtree borers are unfortunately dangerous in all of their life stages. As larvae, they can burrow into the tree's bark and feed on the tree's cambium, the layer of plant tissue responsible for root and stem growth. This damage to the tree's vasculature can be seen in wilting leaves and frass - a sawdust like substance - oozing from scars where the borer made it's entrance. As adult moths, they continue their propagation quickly and prolifically by mating and laying eggs in the soil near the trunk and on rough bark at the margins of wounded areas. The lesser peachtree borer may have several generations in one summer.

Since it's difficult to treat for the moths and to root out the larvae, prevention is the best medicine. Keeping trees healthy and nurtured are good first steps, while more intensive steps can include methods to disrupt mating or prevent hatching.

For a more extensive look at the insects, treatment, and prevention, take a look at this excerpt with great pictures and infographics from the Utah State University Extension: <https://extension.usu.edu/boxelder/ou-files/greater-peachtree-borers07.pdf>



IN THE NEWS

- Texans recommended not to plant strange seed shipments from China: <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/07/29/texas-seeds-china-mail/>
- Texas A&M System launches grassland revitalization project: <https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/2020/07/28/researchers-across-texas-am-system-launch-grassland-revitalization-partnership/>
- Home gardening and seed sales are reportedly up amidst pandemic: <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-52544317>
- Houston chef looks at the intersections of food, farming, race, and food apartheid: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/voraciously/wp/2020/07/02/chef-jonny-rhodes-built-a-revered-houston-restaurant-his-next-mission-fighting-food-apartheid/>



Fresh Watermelon Cocktail

Recipe by: Hannah Lamar

Let's face it: it's hot, times are stressful, and homemade melony cocktails are just the antidote - well, a salve at least. So, in these trying times, why not try enjoying your garden produce in beverage form! With or without spirits, this drink can be a refreshing addition to your summer routines.

Makes 4 cocktails

INGREDIENTS

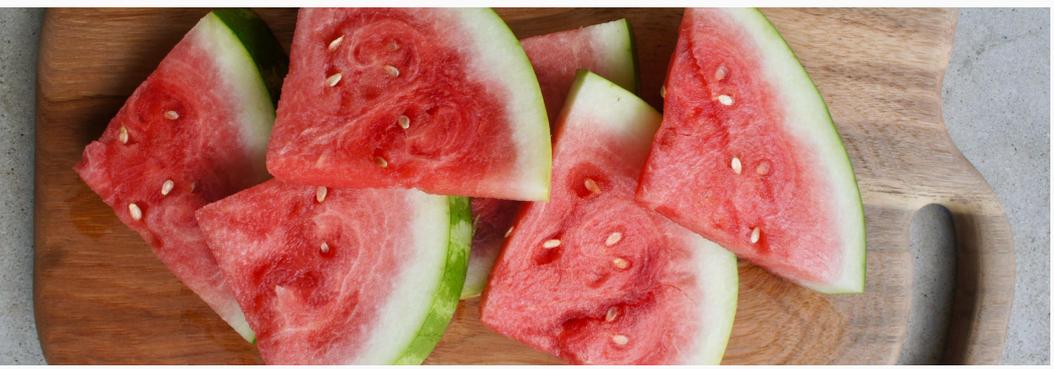
- 1/2 small watermelon, or 1 cup freshly squeezed watermelon juice
- Juice of 1 lime
- Sparkling water, watermelon flavored if possible
- Tequila, gin, or vodka (optional and per your preference)
- Basil or mint
- Ice cubes



PREPARATION

- Gather the juice from a cut watermelon by draining through a fine-meshed sieve. For four servings, squeeze one cup of juice.
- Juice your lime and mix it in with the watermelon juice.
- Roughly chop or tear your basil or mint, if using.
- In four glasses, add a few ice cubes and your torn herbs. Evenly distribute the watermelon and lime juice mixture amongst the four glasses.
- If using a scale for precise measurements, add in 1.5 ounces of tequila, gin, or vodka. If not using alcohol, skip this step.
- Top off your glass with sparkling water. Give the contents a stir to fully incorporate the fruit juices.
- Enjoy!

If libation inspiration strikes and you come up with a summer beverage of your own making, please share it with the newsletter's co-editor, Harrison Gibson - harrison.gibson@tasteproject.org



Garden Resources

Local Nurseries:

Archie's Gardenland
Calloway's

Free Seeds:

TAFB Community Garden Program;
communitygarden@tafb.org
GROW North Texas

Bulk Soil/Compost:

Living Earth
Silver Creek Materials
City of FW Drop-Off Stations

Garden Curricula:

CGUA-
<http://www.tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org/garden-2.html>

Community Food Systems

Map:

<http://www.tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org/local-food-systems.html>

