



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article May 16, 2016

A Star is Grown

by Lydia Holley

Sometimes, it is not the plant that makes an impact, it is the placement and design use of that particular plant that can raise it to celebrity status in your garden.

Take, for instance, star jasmine, aka confederate jasmine. Star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) is a wonderful plant. In the spring, this vine is covered with miniature star-shaped blooms, mimicking the starry night sky. Sweetly scented, its perfume draws you to it like the bees that come to drink its nectar. When in bloom, it is truly a stunning beauty.



But it is the way in which you use star jasmine whether it will be the star of your garden, or just another actor on your garden's stage. Try planting star jasmine along a fence, but do not plant it on just any fence. Use a fence that is placed where people walk by. They can then slow their steps, lingering to enjoy its perfume while gazing upon its twinkling blooms.

You could also plant star jasmine on an entrance arbor, where it will make a grand impression. Sitting under a pergola where star jasmine is in full bloom would be an impressionable and memorable experience. Train it to grow up your porch columns for a romantic ambiance. String it on wires attached to a wall close to your front doorway for an attractive and appealing welcome. Any of these choices would elevate this vine from just a nice, sweet smelling plant to a statement piece guaranteed to make your neighbors jealous and delight your visitors.

When placing a plant in your garden, think for a few moments how you can show off that particular plant's assets in the best way possible. Plants that have a pleasant perfume, like the star jasmine mentioned above, need to be placed where their fragrance can be fully appreciated. Plants with a soft touch should be placed near the front of the border, so curious fingers can pet their soft leaves. Evergreen plants may be best planted where you will see their strong form in winter, and plants that display autumn color could be grouped together, allowing their stunning seasonal show to be fully appreciated.

Plants can be used in a variety of ways. You may wish to grow them as a supporting player. Or, with a little forethought and planning, you could grow them in such a way that they become the star of your garden.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.