



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article December 05, 2016

HCMGA Offers Free Herb Presentation by Lydia Holley

Master Gardener Shannon Greene will give a free presentation on herbs on Tuesday, December 13, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library, 121 S. Prairieville, Athens.

Herbs are generally beautiful, but they can be extremely useful, too. They can be used as food, medicine, for scent, or flavor. During the presentation, Greene will tell you the soil types needed to successfully grow herbs, how much sun they require, and the ways to successfully propagate them.



In my own garden, I plant herbs in and amongst the flowers, mostly for their scent. Rosemary is a delight to brush against while weeding, releasing its flavorful aroma. Lemon balm, lavender, sage, artemisia, and fennel also add to my garden's perfume. Although I appreciate mint's crisp and clean scent, it is not planted throughout my garden. Instead, due to its aggressive nature, it is kept to a container where it can not escape.

Monarda has usual blooms, and I appreciate its power to attract multitudes of bees. Sweet basil sows itself around, and it is an enjoyable entertainment to see where it will appear from year to year. One herb I wish I did not have in my garden is *Taraxacum officinale*, which you may know by its common name, dandelion.

You may wish to grow herbs throughout your garden for their scent, too. Or you may wish to grow a dedicated herb garden for cooking. Herbs can be useful in rock gardens, as a ground cover, or in decorative containers strictly as ornamentation.

Greene will show you numerous examples of growing herbs in various landscape styles, from casual to formal. Greene will also provide handouts listing the many herbs to attract butterflies and bees, evergreen herbs, herbs listed by flower color, and much more.

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