



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article April 10, 2017

HCMGA Plant Sale; Bee Presentation by Lydia Holley

Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) will hold its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., inside the Henderson County Senior Citizens Center, 3344 Hwy 31E, Athens. The sale will be held rain or shine.

So many plants will be offered that you could landscape your entire garden with plants purchased there. Begin your landscaping with trees. Choose a native tree, such as the spring-blooming red bud, or something a little more exotic.



Place tall shrubs in the back of the border. You may wish to use a Confederate rose, a Rose of Sharon, mock orange, forsythia, or the unusual five-petaled Texas Star hibiscus. Vitex can be grown as a tall shrub or a small tree, and attracts hummingbirds and other pollinators.

Fill in with perennials and small shrubs. Turk's cap can be grown in sun or shade, and hummingbirds love to visit its blooms. The more unusual pink form will be available. Butterflies flock to the large blooms of stoke's aster, the small purple blooms of the golden dew drop, and gaillardias which bloom from spring through fall. Salvias have a reputation for being easy to grow and useful for pollinators. There will be several types of salvias available, including the blue-blooming Henry Duelberg salvia and white-blooming Augusta Duelberg salvia. Gardenias will delight you with their perfume. Roses will be available, in shrub and climbing forms.

Balloon flowers, begonias, daylilies, English daisies, ginger, lantana, oxeye daisies, porter weed, stonecrops and standing cypress are other perennials that could fill in a flower bed.

For a focal point, try something as simple as placing a bleeding heart vine in a beautiful pot. Its showy white and red blooms will last for months and attract pollinators. This plant can also be grown indoors as a houseplant.

This is just a small sampling of the many trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, vines, and bulbs available at the sale. Herbs, vegetables, and tropicals will also be offered. Many plants being offered are heirloom or pass-along plants, which are not usually seen at commercial nurseries. Most plants were propagated by Master Gardeners, so they were grown without using harmful neonicotinoids or other pesticides.

On Tuesday, April 19, 5:30 p.m., HCMGA intern Jacob Cole will give a free presentation of "All the Buzz About Bees" at the Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library, 121 S Prairieville, Athens. Come learn about the benefits of honeybees as pollinators, the workings of a hive, the dangers honeybees face, and which plants are good to place in your garden to attract bees. This presentation is a part of the "Learn at the Library" series, offered by HCMGA on the third Tuesday of each month.

After learning about the importance of bees on April 19, you may wish to fill your garden with plants that could help feed these and other pollinators. You will be able to find many plants beneficial to pollinators offered at the plant sale on April 22.

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