



# Horti-Bull

## HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN

Published Monthly by the SAN ANTONIO MEN'S GARDEN CLUB  
A club for Men and WOMEN interested in all aspects of gardening

**WEBSITE: [mensgardenclubofsa.org](http://mensgardenclubofsa.org)**

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### MGCSA Coming Events

September club meeting at the **San Antonio Garden Center - 1 September**

Fellowship Meeting 6:30pm  
7:00pm

Fall Home and Garden Show 30 Sep-2 Oct  
National Night Out 04 October  
Herb Fest at The Pearl 23 October  
Hollywood Park Market 13 November  
Beck Tamalada TBD



### Interim President's Corner

To the great San Antonio gardeners.

Hello again after a long summer vacation, a hot one, yet soon the seasons will change. With Fall comes the evening thunderstorms out of the Sierra Madre and later the tropical storms from the gulf. Inside a month our weather will change from baked ground to fertile garden.

I spent my vacation in Ireland with Jane, my beautiful wife. Six weeks of cutting grass, trimming out gorse, painting, and building; it was great lark. Yes, we did get away to visit spectacular local sites and hear fine music. The summer in Ireland is mild for temperature, long for sun and unpredictable for rain. It is a compressed growing climate. Thus, the urgency to clear ground of old growth and put in fresh beds – my job. Jane is the planter, but I get the other fun part of gardening – building. This summer the effort was for clearing ground for construction next year, improving the outside raised beds and building raised beds in the new green house.

For the MGCSA, building also applies. There are two major events for the Club: The San Antonio Home and Garden Show Sept 30-Oct 2, and The Fall Herbfest at the Pearl 15 Oct. For the past few weeks and into the future a few members will be calling you to engage your active support. To make these events a success, the Club needs member participation: selling plants, promoting the Club and equally important, engaging with the Mobile Children's Garden. I ask you to be positive and participate.

### President's Flower of The Month

**WOW—weeds!** The truth is the plant most likely to have survived in your flower bed, vegetable garden and lawn were weeds. Do not worry, they can be your friend. In a rock garden a trimmed weed is green, strong and flowering – but, as with any flower you must deadhead it to prevent unwanted spread. Weeds bind and build the soil, they hold that baked soil against rains, their deep roots open the soil, and their fallen stems return organic matter. Most important, the presence of weeds tells you that bare patch is viable – plants will grow. So, before you throw out the “Weed and Seed” or strain your back hoeing, let the weed do some work for you; but yes, stop it before too much propagation. An excellent book to understand the role of weeds, identify them and find uses is Weeds: An organic, earth-friendly guide to their identification, use and control by John Walker.

### Speaker for September meeting

Mr. Matt Pizzini from Paradise Nursery will be our guest speaker. He will give a short talk on what Paradise Nursery has to offer you. His main topic will be on fall and winter gardening.

Refreshments for our September meeting,

**M thru Z**

it's your turn. **We encourage you to stay after the meeting to help clean and straighten up so everyone can leave as soon as possible. It only takes a few minutes for the cleanup if all pitch in to help!**



## Calvin's Corner

By Dr. Calvin Finch, Retired Texas A&M Horticulturist

Horti-Bull Gardening Calendar for September

September is the beginning of the winter gardening period but after a spring and summer of record hot temperatures and drought it is hard to give it a worthy welcome.

In past years we often introduced the month with a recommendation to apply a preemergent herbicide to the lawn to control the winter weeds. My favorite preemergent herbicides were Amaze and XL this year; however, neither is available because of damage to the manufacturing plants in China. In stead you may want to consider a new product Crew or an older product Dimension. Like Amaze, Crew and Dimension will work on both grassy weeds and broadleaf weeds. Another option is to check your notes on winter weeds and compare your list for your yard to the labels of some of the available products. Select the product that addresses the weeds that are most common in your landscape, and which are the best buy. If you have not been able to irrigate your lawn it may be bare ground. If that is the case, you can expect the weeds to burst forward when we finally receive some rain. If you have been able to apply some preemergent herbicide, it will allow what's left of your lawn grass plants to compete for the space in the lawn.

If you got your fall tomatoes planted by early August, they should be at least 3 feet tall and beginning to bloom. As soon as we get the expected September break in the high temperatures the leaves will flatten out and the plants will finish their growth and begin setting fruit. Peppers are more tolerant of the heat, and they should be finally setting some larger fruit.

Later in the month broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kale, Swiss chard and other winter greens can be planted as transplants. Use seeds for turnips, radishes, and beets. Wait awhile for the lettuce. Spinach also does better planted in October. Prepare the soil by enriching it with 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of 19-5-9 per 100 sq ft of bed. Make sure the soil is moistened prior to planting transplants or seeds.

Zinnias, begonias, pentas, and vinca will continue to bloom until Thanksgiving if the weather stays warm. You can begin adding some of the cool weather annuals such as snapdragons, dianthus, and stocks, to the flower garden in late September but most will do better if planted in October.

Plant shade trees in September. It gives the plants an opportunity to develop a root system before they face the summer heat.

Migrating Monarch butterflies will pass through San Antonio and Central Texas in September. Make it your goal to provide plenty of nectar plants such as mist flower, duranta, lantana, salvia, zinnias, porter weed, and cape honeysuckle. The native milkweeds have quit blooming and lost their foliage so it is probably best if the tropical milkweed is pruned back to discourage late caterpillar production that will be at the mercy of the weather while trying to successfully migrate to the wintering grounds in Mexico.

**AUGUST MEETING** We had a great turn out at the August meeting, and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves from the table of good snacks (inspired by Marion See), a table full of beautiful plant life (inspired by Sharon Hughes), good leadership from the podium from Ivan Roman our Vice President, and a speaker that generated much discussion on general gardening topics. Our new meeting

location seems to be catching on to everyone's enjoyment.

Of special interest was the review of up coming sales events, and the call for everyone to volunteer their time and effort in supporting them. An email was sent out on the 18th of August by Paul Huegel with information on the need for everyone to support these events. See Paul's article elsewhere in this month's Horti-Bull.

## MGCSA Officers for 2022

<b>Interim President</b>	Robert McDaniel	210-542-1888
<b>1st V.P</b>	Ivan Roman	210-845-7073
<b>2nd V.P.</b>	Vallerie Hartfield	210-240-1466
<b>3rd V.P</b>	Vacant	
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#### 2022-2024

Teresa Martinez	210--534-8100
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### Other

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<b>HB Advertising</b>	Paul Huegel
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<b>Webmaster</b>	Ivan Roman
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<b>Postmaster</b>	Larry Cromer

**Starting a garden** is just like real estate, it's all about location. Place your garden in a part of your yard where you'll see it regularly (out of sight, out of mind) definitely applies to gardening. That way, you'll be much more likely to spend time in it.



We enjoyed our largest attendance at the August Club meeting that we have seen in many moons. As you can see, we still have some empty chairs. Let's fill those empties the first of September. Do you think our new meeting place, the San Antonio Garden Center, has anything to do with that? MANY THANKS, MR. CHARLES BARTLETT.

## Paradise Nursery, L.L.C.

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**Misjudging sunlight** is a common pitfall when you're first learning to garden. Pay attention to how sunlight plays through your yard before choosing a spot for your garden. Most edible plants, including many vegetables, herbs, and fruits, need at least 6 hours of sun in order to thrive.

MGCSA

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Charles Bartlett gives the Sekos some guidance on the care of the plants they just purchased.



Sharon Hughes just handed Treasurer Phill Byrd, the proceeds from the evening plant sale. The first vice-president, Ivan Roman, looks on with glee.



**MEMBERSHIP**

Happy Birthday to July and August born members.  
Healing and recovery to all who are sick, going to surgery or rehab.  
Strength, comfort, peace, and love to all who are coping with losses.

**HOSPITALITY**

Thanks to all who brought food and goodies to share for the picnic and meetings.

**THE SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN'S 'CHILDREN'S VEGETABLE GARDEN' PROGRAM**

The fall program will begin on August 27 and end December 10, 2022.  
The program is for 7-16 year olds on Saturdays from 8:30-10:30 am.  
Your help is always appreciated. *From Vallerie Hartfield*

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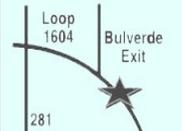
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## Of tomatoes and an old Dutch hoe. *From Jane McDaniel*

A man who kept a private plane on Achill Island lived up on the hill, Slievemor, high above the Atlantic Ocean. His passion, apart from flying, was collecting tools of all kinds. He died and his grandson wanted to sell the house. When I went up there to that house on the hill the grandson was throwing out things which were stored in the old garage: a chainsaw, rusted saws of various sizes, hammers and winches and clamps, a framed picture of a small plane, a pilot's helmet and goggles. "This is all crap", he said, "what a hoarder Gramps was!".

I went home with a box of hand tools, a chainsaw, indeterminate collections of oils and lubricants, and the best tool I've ever owned. It's called a Dutch hoe. I've heard of these mystical, magical things which can wipe moss and weeds growing in a cemented walkway with a flick of the wrist. And it does - the rain which makes Ireland so green also facilitates a myriad collections of mosses on walls and pathways, pathways which can be a dangerous place to walk. The hoe has a 5-inch blade mounted across the end - see the picture attached!

And I found out what to do when my tomatoes are flourishing green, thick as a jungle. Prune them back! Monty Don, beloved English gardener extraordinaire showed me how, this last week. Since we covered the roofless shed with Perspex, a PVC roof which transformed that old shed into a minor greenhouse, the tomato plants have flourished. Somewhere in there, amongst all the leaves, were tomatoes, green and yellow, pale looking. Now, with all the leaves trimmed and just the tomato plant stalks with the fruit hanging, my tomatoes are gaining color. Of course, they needed light!



This summer's new raised bed garden in last summer's greenhouse.



Tomatoes in the Greenhouse.



Jane's prized Dutch hoe.

**STILL** wanted for the Horti-Bull - your inputs for future Horti-Bulls. Prefer receipt by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month . The article can be about your current gardening effort, a past event, or some plain old good- or-bad life experience, or simply a gardening tip.



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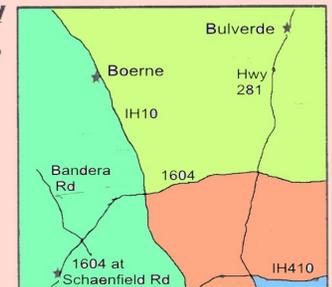
**Hours of Operation:**

**Mon. - Sat.**

**8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Sun. (seasonal)**

**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**



One of the best gardening tips you'll ever get is to **plan your new garden near a water source**. Make sure you can run a hose to your garden site, so you don't have to lug water to it each time your plants get thirsty. The best way to tell if plants need watering is to push a finger an inch down into the soil (that's about one knuckle deep). If it's dry, it's time to water.

# CALLING ALL GARDENERS—A CALL TO ACTION

BY PAUL HUEGEL

Anyone who has gone shopping lately realizes that inflation has taken a bigger chunk out of our disposable income with rising prices. In fact, many are challenged to meet our fixed income expenses. Inflation has caused nurseries to raise prices significantly and downsize their plant trays (shrinkflation) to make a profit which makes it even more important that the MGCSA rely on donated plants to sell at fund raisers like the Home and Garden Shows. In the past, we relied on buying plants from our wholesalers and supplemented these purchases with donated plants. It is the other way around now as we can only afford to supplement donated plants with some nursery purchased plants. The Fall Home and Garden Show is coming up at the end of September and we need everyone to donate plants from your gardens, house plant cuttings and seedlings you start at home. We are emphasizing indoor plants and succulents for the Fall Home and Garden Show, but all plants are welcome.

## Here is some gardening ideas to get you started and have some fun doing it:

Thin out your home gardens and repot rooted plants for sale. For example, plants like Shrimp plants, mint, Purple Heart or politically incorrect Wandering Jew, and rhizomes like Irises can be dug up, thinned out, and repotted for sale. Cuttings can be rooted in organic potting soil, compost, expanded shale, coconut fiber or started in Perlite and transferred into soil. Cuttings should be 4 to 8 inches long and are best taken from the youngest growth of healthy, vigorous shoots. Strip the leaves off the bottom 60-75 percent of the cutting. Some gardeners recommend dipping cuttings in rooting hormone or willow water,

but studies have shown that this is not usually worth the trouble or expense. What does work and it is far less expensive believe it or not, is salvia. You can stick the base of the cutting in your mouth, but be sure that the plant is not poisonous like Oleander. Plunge cuttings into your starter mix and keep cuttings warm and moist. Cuttings will root in 2 to 8 weeks depending on the species. Obviously, given the timing of the Fall Home and Garden show you should focus on cuttings that take the least time. Of course, there are other events that come later like the Spring Home and Garden show that will need your donation then, as well. So do some fast starting and slower starting cuttings. Some plant cuttings like Purple Heart can be stuck directly into pots without stripping any leaves. They will root in the pot and look like they have established roots.

Discounted plants can be purchased at nurseries and box stores like Lowes and separated into smaller pots. The club will reimburse members for such plants. For example, I have purchased large container plants like Snake Plants or politically incorrect Mother in Law's Tongue which sells well and got 8 separated plants from one large pot to sell. By the way, places like the 99 Cent store sell them dirt cheap (no pun intended). The key is to get healthy looking plants.

Seedlings may not be feasible for the Fall Home and Garden Show as they may not be big enough to sell if started from seeds, but it may be worth a try for things that germinate quickly. If not for this show maybe the next show for plants that take longer. For example, it takes about 6 weeks to get a salable tomato plant for next Spring's events.

When you are ready, we can stage your donated plants at the Grotto greenhouse and make arrangement for pick up if necessary. This will actually challenge us to be an active garden club that practices what we preach rather than meeting once a month to listen to a guest speaker and socialize. Please take this seriously and do not sit on the sidelines letting others fulfill the need. Another benefit of getting involved in donating your home grown plants is that you can take pride when someone is willing to purchase your plants that you grew and had fun doing it. Once you get started you will have plants of your own to enjoy in your home or share at monthly meetings and save money by not replacing plants each year with newly purchased plants. This is what true gardeners do to develop that "green thumb" and secure bragging rights for show and tell at our meetings.



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