



Horti-Bull

HORTICULTURAL BULLETIN

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MGCSA Members

We don't normally do a Horti-Bull for July. But on this special occasion of our first face-to-face meeting in 2021 - I am doing this two page Horti-Bull as a reminder of our indoor picnic on July 1, at 7PM at the Place of Grace Fellowship. We will be doing a short program, renewing old and making new acquaintances, and eating. As mentioned in previous communications, the club is furnishing the main dish and beverages, and you are bringing the sides. Hopefully you have made your contribution known to Darlene so we don't end up with all bringing the same covered dish.
Larry

Did I mention? It's



Todd Mermin

Hello Friends in Gardening.

We are finally at a point that we feel comfortable in having a 'normal' full contact club meeting. Certainly you can wear your mask and are encouraged to keep your safe distancing. Our temporary meeting facility is large enough so that we are not all scrunched up together, and it is comfortably air conditioned.

Just looking around, it's like we never had a record cold and snow a few months ago. Certainly the recent rains helped the rebound. Most folks have cut back the dead wood and have made an extra effort in restoration by planting new greenery and colors.

Hope to see you all at our July 1st indoor picnic. Love, Todd



Place of Grace Fellowship at 2938 Nacogdoches Road.
One mile north of Interstate 410, on the right. Big parking lot on the rightside of building.

Remember our advertisers!





Calvin's Corner

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

HortiBull Gardening Calendar for July

The zinnias in your flower garden are in full bloom. Harvest the mature flowers for bouquets or let the mature blooms drop the seed for a new generation of flowers. The goldfinches, cardinals and other seed eating birds will appreciate the availability of the seed. Other hot weather annuals for the sun include sunflowers, cosmos, purslane, vinca, and moss rose. In the shade begonias, penta, caladiums, and coleus provide color. Vines also make a good show in the summer. Butterfly vine has yellow flowers and green seed pods

that look like butterflies. Deer do not eat butterfly vine. Coral vine is extremely aggressive and will often cover sheds and trees with its pink blooms. All the subtropical perennials including esperanza, firebush, thyralis, poinciana, and duranta will also be blooming.

In the vegetable garden okra and peppers will be in full production. Remember to seek out a fire ant control with Spinosaad as the active ingredient to control the ants in the okra. Use Amdro for a landscape fire ant bait. Follow label instructions.

Bermuda grass has responded to the generous rains earlier in the summer. Control its growth as a weed with one of the contact herbicides for grasses such as Poast, Fusilade, or Grass-Be- Gone. It works in flower gardens and perennial beds. Early in the month you can also apply the second dose of the preemergent herbicide for crabgrass and sand bur control. Again, follow label instructions.

The spring planted tomatoes are usually pulled in June with the new fall transplants planted in July. Use the same fast producing heat-setting selections recommended for the spring. I recommend Red Snapper, Tycoon, HM 1823, Celebrity, BHN 968, Ruby Crush, HM 8849, and Valley Cat. Prepare the new bed with 2 inches of compost and 10 cups of slow-release lawn fertilizer per 100 sq. ft. of bed. If you have nematodes, the selections Celebrity, BHN 968, Valley Cat, and Tycoon are nematode resistant.

The purple martins will complete their nesting and be assembled for the trip to South America by mid-month. After they leave, lower and clean out the martin houses. The martins leaving seems to coincide with the expansion of the butterfly population. The fall migrating monarchs will not arrive for a few months but there are lots of swallowtails, gulf fritillaries, queens, and other colorful species. Add mistflower, milkweed, porter weed, lantanas, and salvias to your zinnias for nectar production. Have as a goal to establish some native milkweed for monarch egg laying sites but fill any gap with the attractive, easy to grow tropical milkweed.

Mowing the lawn is a key management technique for an attractive result. Mowing once per week is usually best. Mow St Augustine grass at 3.5 inches, zoysia at 2 inches, Bermuda grass at an inch and a half, and buffalo grass at 5 inches. Enroll to receive the SAWS weekly watering recommendation. There is no charge and you do not have to be a SAWS customer to receive the e-mail.

Your inputs for the Horti-Bull is welcomed, **and needed**. What you are doing garden wise, gardening stories from the past and present, hints and tips, and quality pictures. If you would like me to come out and take some pictures, that can be arranged. We need your support.

Larry

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