

August 2020
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In the Garden

Arkansas County Master Gardeners Newsletter



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



President's Message

Dear Master Gardeners,

Can you believe the pleasant weather and cool nights for August – almost record lows? Don't get used to it, as I understand it won't last long. Get ready for hot weather again.

I have never experienced a year such as 2020. I've missed seeing everyone. Fortunately we can get together to work on projects while maintaining social distancing. Thanks to all who have worked at the courthouse, signs, Easter Seals and Extension office. I was in Stuttgart this week and passed by Easter Seals. The project looked very pretty. Good job Master Gardeners! Don't forget to keep track of your volunteer hours and report them – either in the MG online reporting system, or to Onita. I certainly miss the field trips and working at the fairgrounds for work and education hours.

I was sad to learn of the loss of P.A. Shockley from Stuttgart. P.A. was a member of the class of 1995. This was the first Master Gardeners Class in Arkansas County. He was a lifetime member and quite active for several years. P.A. loved wildflowers and roses. Love and prayers to his family.

Friends, continue to wear your masks, wash your hands frequently, use hand sanitizers, and practice social distances, and soon we hope to be able to have meetings. Stay safe.



Jean

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2020-21

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Master Gardeners Want to Know???

Can Project Work Days Be Held During the Covid-19 Pandemic??

Gardeners can conduct work days using these guidelines:

- **Less than 10 in attendance**
- **Social Distance 6 feet apart**
- **A mask is not required if you are social distanced at least 6-ft apart. If working in a close flower bed area and not able to social distance, masks should be worn.**

Publishing Information
Ark. Co. Master Gardeners
Newsletter, *In the Garden*, is
publishing bi-monthly.
Submitted material can be
mailed or emailed to the
County Extension Agent,
Attention: Phil Horton

Don't Be Left Out in the Count



By completing your 2020 Census, you are investing in the long-term health and well-being of Arkansas communities and ensuring your community has the strong public health

infrastructure necessary to respond to crises like the COVID-19 pandemic now and for years to come.

Alta Lockley, CEA-4-H/FCS

Volunteer Hours

Even though the ability to accumulate work hours for MG has undergone a change this year, please remain diligent in recording what hours you are able to do. And also don't forget that you can record hours worked in "non-sanctioned" projects as long as it is not over 1/2 of your time worked in regular MG projects. This might be at your church or other public buildings. While social distancing, all those extra hours you now have for reading, watching TV and other educational gardening presentations via Zoom or whatever means you have available should be logged also.



Do What?
No County Fair??

I am so sad that we won't have fun at the Carnival, setting up booths, visiting

the animals in the barns, eating cotton candy, and hearing the crashing of derby cars this year; but I know that next year will be here before we know it – and better than ever!

Did I Order This ???

Phil Horton, County Extension Agent – Ag

Have you recently received a packet of seeds or some trinket that you didn't order? The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is asking Arkansans to let the department know if they have received unsolicited packages in the mail.

Some of the packages were marked as containing jewelry. Others had no content description on the outside.



Return addresses indicated origins in China, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

"These seeds are of unknown species and unknown origin. We have no idea what's being sent to us," said Vic Ford, Associate Vice President- Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ark. Cooperative Extension Service. *"The possibility of introducing an exotic invasive species or disease of common crops is a possibility and we have to take precautions."* The seeds will be tested by the US Department of Agriculture. Anyone receiving the packages should contact Arkansas Plant Industries Division at 501-225-1598, or by email:

Paul.shell@agriculture.arkansas.gov

or Mark.stoll@agriculture.arkansas.gov

Gardening To-Do's



- Continue to water as needed. Be sure plants are mulched.

-Plant your fall vegetable garden.

Watch for insects & diseases.

- Monitor your garden often and remove heavily disease or insect-infested plants.
- Leggy annuals should be pinched back and fertilized.
- Deadhead annuals and perennials to keep them blooming.
- Clean up early season perennials as they begin to die back.



- Monitor plants for water, insects and diseases.
- Last call for fertilizing shrubs and lawns by mid-month.
- Plant fall vegetables, including lettuce, spinach and greens.
- Dig & divide spring blooming perennials.
- Preserve flowers by hanging them upside down to air-dry.
- Replenish mulch around all trees and shrubs.
- Add mums, asters and dianthus for extra fall color.

WE ARE NEEDING PINE NEEDLES TO MULCH THE BERMS AT THE COURTHOUSE IN DEWITT. RAKE, BAG AND DROP THEM OFF

NEAR THE BERMS.





Master Gardener Monday (MGM)

Master Gardener Monday is a monthly Zoom session discussing Master Gardener and horticulture topics held on the 3rd Monday of each month. It is open to all Master Gardeners and County Agents.

The next MGM will be August 17, 2020
12 to 1 p.m.

Link to register is below

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://uaex.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcpdOi_gqzkoEtdJY-B4d0SsFnEYg_MytsAI

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Happy Gardening!

Berni

- Berni Kurz

Master Gardener State Coordinator

Angel's Trumpet

Latin: *Brugmansia aurea*



With its foot long, trumpet shaped blooms, angel's trumpet makes an impressive display in early fall.

Tropical plants have invaded our gardens in recent years, making us long for a stretch of sandy beach, a hammock and a cool ocean breeze as we enjoy the good life.

Most tropicals have lush foliage, but a few are grown for their flowers. Of these, angel's trumpet (*Brugmansia aurea*) is perhaps the most spectacular.

Angel's trumpet is a large shrub or small tree in the Columbian and Ecuadorian Andes where it grows at around 10,000 feet. It belongs to the nightshade family, the same family as the tomato and potato, but unlike them, all parts are poisonous. It reaches 20 feet tall and wide in the wild, but only a third of that in an Arkansas garden.

Leaves have a coarse texture and are 8 inches long. They also have a lush feel. But it's the foot-long, trumpet-shaped yellow flowers that really give angel's trumpet the exotic look. The fragrant, tubular flowers are borne singly and hang downward from

the stems. The basal half of the floral tube is enclosed in a green calyx.

Blooms are produced from spring until fall, but heaviest flowering is in autumn. Cultivated forms have been extensively hybridized with selections available that produce pink, peach, red and white flowers. Both single and double-flowered forms are offered.

The angel's trumpets were once botanically combined with the *Daturas*, which includes our native Jimson weed. Botanists seem to have finally agreed that they belong in separate genera. *Datura* has erect flowers that usually last only one day and a seed pod covered in stout thorns. *Brugmansia* has a smooth seed pod when one forms.

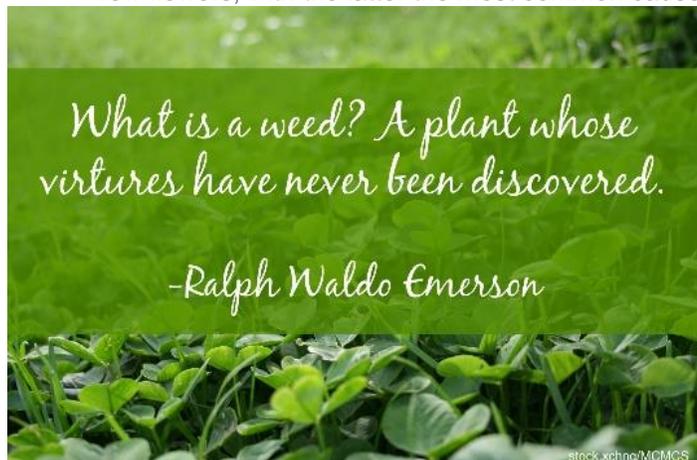
The revival of interest in angel's trumpets began in the early 1990s when new plant fever struck gardening. They weren't really new, having been grown as conservatory plants for more than a century, but they were generally unavailable except as cuttings shared amongst friends. The new plant craze in gardening coincided with a general movement to create more lush, tropical looking gardens, so *Brugmansias* fit right in.

This increased availability and awareness had predictable results. In 2002, it spawned a society, the American *Brugmansia* & *Datura* Society, Inc. At last count, there were about 300 of these specialty plant societies. Almost every plant group or gardening style has its own society. These range from small, highly specialized societies like the American Penstemon Society and the afore mentioned *Brugmansia* society with a couple hundred members to large, well established groups like the American Orchid Society with 24,000 members. The urge to focus gardening efforts on a single group of plants seems to be a common phenomenon. Because there's so much to learn about the gentle art of gardening, the urge to specialize and know a lot about a narrow slice of the plant kingdom is appealing. Specialists share assistance, swap seeds and generally encourage one another as they pursue their passion. Google a plant group and include the word society, and you'll be surprised what may pop up.

Angel's trumpets are frost tender, so plants must be protected over winter. Established plants can be cut back severely and should be kept moist over winter in a cool bedroom. Plant them when you would set out tomatoes, giving them a sunny site with fertile, well-drained soil and ample water during the summer.

Overly exuberant growth or very slow growth results in few flowers, with the latter the most common cause of

poor



flowering. Spider mites are the most serious pest, especially inside during the winter.

By: Gerald Klingaman, retired

Extension Horticulturist - Ornamentals

Plant-Nurture-Grow Virtual Conference

August 24-25

Labor Day Holiday

September 7

County Extension Offices Closed

MG 32nd Birthday Celebration

Ozark Folk Center



Following Covid-19 guidelines released by the CDC and UA, the Arkansas County Extension Offices are open with limited access inside the buildings and masks are required. Extension agents are available to help to as needed via office visits, text, email or phone while following social distancing.

Recipe Corner

Strawberry Pie

Jean Prange

This is an old recipe, but I still enjoy it. It is a good way to have dessert and cut down on the sugar.

2 pints strawberries (save a few for garnish)
2 Tbsp. cornstarch
1-1/2 cups water
1 pkg (3 oz) sugar-free strawberry gelatin
3 Tbsp. sugar
Graham-cracker crust
Reduced-fat whipped topping

Slice the strawberries, set aside. In saucepan combine cornstarch and water and stir until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook for 2 minutes until thick. Remove from heat, stir in gelatin and sugar until dissolved. Fold in strawberries; pour into crust. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours until firm. Garnish each serving with a berry and dollop of whipped topping.

* This time of year you may also use fresh peaches and peach gelatin.



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