

**2019-2020 MG
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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System



**MASTER
GARDENER**

**this issue**

Pomegranates **P.1**

January Minutes **P.2**

You Can Grow Pomegranates in Arkansas?

This is a question I get periodically. And just a few years ago I wasn't too familiar with Pomegranates. But after a conversation with a local I became educated. Here's a bit of the story:

You see this local informed me that his pomegranate tree was over 100 years old and that it did indeed produce fruit. He mentioned that one of the best attributes of the tree was its blooms and that the blooms were a magnet for hummingbirds. He also informed me that he has been successful in getting cuttings to take from this tree. Didn't take me long to put in my request for a cutting. (Today I have a healthy pomegranate in my landscape from a cutting.)

Now, I started thinking more about this tree and its oddity in these parts and decided to do a little research. Let me enlighten those of you that may be interested in this tree as it appears that it may have some aesthetic value that would interest those green thumbs in the county.

The pomegranate is originally from the Middle East and Asia. Today, it is primarily grown in India, Africa, and the United States (California and Arizona).

The best place for pomegranate to grow is in hot climate areas. Southern Arkansas, zone 7, is right on the edge of the pomegranate's hardiness zone.

The pomegranate can range from a dwarf shrub of 3' to a small tree of 20'-30'. Pomegranates really like the sunshine. Pomegranates grow best in most well drained soils. The flowers of pomegranates are tube shaped and over 1" long. They are brilliant scarlet red or orange and are very attractive to hummingbirds.

Pomegranates are one of the easier fruits to work with since they do not have a lot of pests or diseases that affect them. I will also mention, to confirm what the gentlemen told me, that pomegranates are long living and there are shrubs that are known to be over 200 years old. The last thing that I will say about the pomegranate is: the fruit is great to eat and has many positive health attributes.

If you want to grow something unique that is pretty carefree, give the pomegranate a go.

January-February Calendar:

- January 24th- putting top on the High Tunnel at Pioneer Village.
- February 1st- registration for State MG Conference begins.
- February 3rd- next Master Gardener Meeting.
- February 28th- March 1st- Arkanas Flower and Garden Show.

February to do list:

1. Time to begin planting cool season vegetables.
2. Beginning pruning summer blooming shrubs.
3. Time to prune fruit trees, blueberry bushes, and grape vines.
4. Also, time to prune "Roses."
5. Control winter weeds in your lawn (Stickers.)

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Minutes from January:

"Knowledge comes by eyes
always open and working hands;
and there is no knowledge that is
not power." Emerson

Meeting called to order by President Marty Bowlin on January 6, 2020 at 6PM

Members present: Frances Lightsey, Arnette Guyer, Marty Bowlin, Malinda Berry, Susannne Clark, Harvey Padgett, Orpha Howard, Deborah Curry, Mike Curry, Carolyn Earnest, Barbara Scroggins, Janice Doss, Judy Phillips, Glenna Knowles, Les Walz, Karen Wiscaver, Irene Wooley, Lynn Wooley, Shorty Drye, Luther Drye, Travis Drye, Lesley Drye, Donna Johnston, Wilton Johnston, Rosemary Sinclair, Ryan Sinclair, Vickie Padgett

January Birthdays are Deborah Curry & Carolyn Earnest

Discussions: Marty passed out sheets for everyone to list things they would like to learn about during 2020 and she also passed out MG calendars. Rosemary dug up daffodil bulbs & Marty suggested planting this Thursday or Friday at Veteran's park at 9AM.

Treasurer's report: Cleveland County Cultivators \$494.61

Master Gardener's \$127.17 (plus \$253.16 in the depository account at the Extension office.)

Work to begin on covering high tunnel 1/23

Marty mentioned Ryan & Vickie swap positions as Secretary & VP. Motion made by Ryan, seconded by several. Motion approved.

Marty mentioned there is a MG of the Year & Volunteer of the Year at State level, should we participate or can we join with Kick Start Cleveland County recognition group? Les suggested a newsletter or info & hand out at meeting.

Rosemary suggested a plant sale etc., at Spring fest, the Saturday before Easter.

Les checking into everyone getting emails about MG training and information.

Meeting turned over to Les who presented an article he has read in "Vegetable Growers News" about pollination by drones due to declining bee population. In addition, he spoke about January as a "production" month. Time to evaluate failures & successes from last growing season. Watch water in Jan & also fertilize winter annuals lightly, apply on a warm day to keep them blooming and keep cover handy for winter vegetables in case of winter precipitation. Azaleas: foliage may shed or turn yellow this time of year. Deborah Curry asked if we should treat bark scale now or wait until spring & Les said treat now.

Good time to make plans for summer gardens & make your "wish list". Winter weeds such as Spur weeds can be treated now as long as grasses are dormant. Use Trimec or 2,4-D to treat spur weeds. Plant of the month: Pansies

Door Prizes donated by Rosemary Sinclair, Arnette Guyer,

Won by Marty Bowlin, Deborah Curry, Malinda Berry, Harvey Padgett, Judy Phillips, Rosemary Sinclair, Mike Curry

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 with Les blessing the food.