

# Master Gardener Extension Volunteers of Union and Towns Counties

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## Our Officers

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Jared Ogden

Corresponding Secretary

Tommy Westbrook

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Meetings: Master Gardener Extension Volunteers of Union and Towns Counties meet on the second Thursday of every month in the Fellowship Hall at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church in Young Harris, 4:00 p.m. socializing, 4:30 p.m. meeting. We do not meet if inclement weather closes Union County or Towns County schools.

## Editor's Words

Meet Dagmar Taylor

page 2

Garden Chores

pages 3-6

What's Blooming Now

pages 7-12

Tommy Westbrook—Garden Pictures

page 13

Garden Paths—Jared Ogden

pages 14-16

Weeds I Love To Hate/Fall Is For Planting

pages 17-18

Recipe/Book

page 19

page 20

## Reminders

September 10, 2020—To Be Announced

October 8, 2020—To Be Announced

November 12, 2020—To Be Announced



Begonia grandis  
From the Garden of Tommy Westbrook

## Editor's Words

First, I want to congratulate and welcome our 19 new Master Gardener Extension Volunteers! Our group continues to get better and better.

As our season transitions from summer to autumn, we see the leaves changing to brilliant shades of orange, red and yellow. Daylight is changing; it gets darker earlier and the changing position of the earth in relation to the sun makes the light 'look' different. And of course autumn ushers in a whole new set of demands in our gardens. Think about the season you are closing down and note your accomplishments, what worked and what did not work and learn what needs to be done differently next year.

Our featured Master Gardener Extension Volunteer for this quarter is Dagmar Taylor. I truly enjoyed getting to know more about Dagmar, please see pages 3-6. Tommy Westbrook shared many pictures of his garden on pages 14-16, read about *Garden Paths* from Jared Ogden on pages 17-18 and on page 19, *Fall is for Planting*.

Plant not necessarily for the future but just for the pleasure in the delightful present. It is pretty good to be alive!

Happy gardening,

Jo Anne



Autumn begins on September 22, 2020 at 9:31 a.m.





## Meet Dagmar Taylor

Our featured Master Gardener Extension Volunteer for this quarter is Dagmar Taylor. She completed her Master Gardener Extension Volunteer training in April of 2014 and was certified in April of 2015.

Dagmar grew up in the Southwest German State of Baden-Wuerttemberg. She was born in Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart. She spent her early childhood in Goeppingen where she attended American Dependent School because her father was a U.S. soldier. As a teenager, her family moved to Heidelberg where she finished her early education in German schools.

Dagmar attended nursing school at the Academy for Health Sciences at the University of Heidelberg. She continued her education in Wiesbaden, Germany and became a Board-Certified Interpreter in English/German in Economics, Chamber of Industry and Commerce. She took some accounting and management college classes after moving back to the United States in 1975 at St. Leo College and Lake Sumter State College in Florida. She acquired her All-Lines Insurance Adjuster License and worked as a Board-Certified Workers Compensation Insurance Adjuster for several years. She and her husband Ray purchased a retirement/vacation home in 1998 and retired here in 2009 but do visit their children and grandchildren in Central Florida frequently.

Dagmar and Ray met in Heidelberg on Labor Day 1972 where they both worked for the U.S. Army Medical Command. Ray was a soldier in the U.S. Army and Dagmar was a local national (German working for U.S. Military). They married in the United States in 1975. Ray was a Certified Automotive Mechanic and went back to college graduating with a BA in Business and a dual Master's Degree, all at Stetson University, Deland, Florida. They have two daughters, both nurses, studying for their Master's Degree as Nurse Practitioners. The eldest, Denise, is married to a paramedic and they have gifted Dagmar and Ray with two grandchildren, Josiah, 3 years old and Johanna, 6 months old.

Dagmar is active in the Towns Union Master Gardener Association where she volunteers working on various projects at Vogel State Park and maintains the Towns Union Master Gardener Association Facebook page. She also volunteered at Georgia State Parks and at Habitat for Humanity. Hobbies and passions include gardening and horticulture, crafts, traveling and movies (what brought her and Ray together).

Favorite plants include perennials, pollinator garden plants and native plants. Gardening is one of her passions and she is converting a "weed" slope into a wildflower slope. She and Ray recently purchased a new home and she is looking forward to using all the knowledge and confidence she acquired while studying to become a Master Gardener Extension Volunteer in her own landscape. Favorite foods include German (of course) in addition to all of the European cuisines and a great brew or bottle of wine.

Dagmar wants to finish their U.S. Trip 2019. They cut it short by two months and had to miss the northeast and some of the Midwest states. In four months, they camped at 49 campsites, visited 23 states, traveled 14,000 miles and visited many National Park Institutions - there are 419 varied units of which 62 are National Parks; they only saw a fraction of these amazing venues. She is planning a PowerPoint presentation of photographed plants taken during their 4-month trip through the United States in 2019.

Past travels were with their family to several of the many Christmas markets in Germany. Then they honored Ray's father (Colonel, retired) by retracing some of his "boot prints" when he was Captain, Paratrooper, landing in Normandy on D-Day. Then as a Major, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. They visited two of the three major battle sites in seven short days but took away so many unimagined impressions.

Something that many of Dagmar's friends do not know about her is that she is a naturalized citizen, not American born. She doesn't have a tell-tale German accent and that throws many people off. She says she "was fortunate to grow up with both languages from an early age."

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Dagmar better and hope you will too.



Following 3 pages, pictures from Dagmar and Ray's travels to National Park Institutions



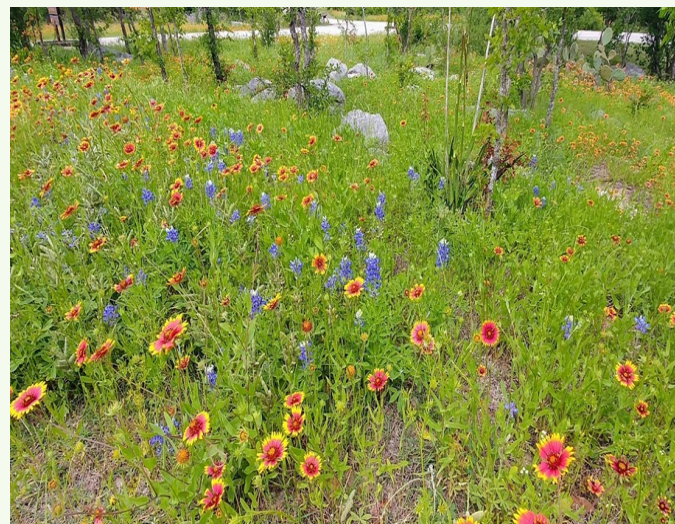
Prairie Spiderwort (*Tradescantia bracteata*) @ Petit Jean State Park, AR



Cream Wild Indigo @ Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, KS



Evening Primrose - Native at Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Sulphur, OK



Sea of Indian Blankets & Blue Bonnets @ Longhorn Cave State Park, TX





Fouquieria splendans @ Carlsbad Caverns National Park, NM



Silver Cholla Cactus @ Lost Dutchman State Park, AZ



Above: Desert Sunflower (*Gerardia canescens*)  
Native to NV, AZ, CA and UT @ Escalante Petrified Forest State Park, UT

Right: Pistachios! Grove near Hensley Lake Recreation Area, Raymond, CA







Above: Redwood Sorel (*Oxalis oregana*), Perennial found at the Avenue of the Giants in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, CA



Above: *Penstemon davidsonii*, Perennial native to northern CA into British Columbia @ Lava Butte Cinder Cove, Deschutes National Forest, OR



Creeping Dogwood (*Cornus canadensis*)  
A creeping, rhizomatous perennial native to northern US @ Nez Perce, Clearwater National Forests, ID



## September Garden Chores

Plant a fall garden: sow seeds/transplant seedlings of mustard, spinach, turnips, beets, carrots, kale, radishes, broccoli, lettuce, onions, collards, and cabbage.

Have your soil tested. Stop by your local Extension Office for a soil testing bag and instructions.

Plant garlic now for harvest next summer.

Autumn is a good time to add perennials, trees and shrubs to your garden. Plant fall blooming perennials such as aster, chrysanthemum, goldenrod and black-eyed Susan for fall color.

Do not prune or fertilize trees/shrubs now. Pruning and fertilizing will stimulate new growth that could be hurt as temperatures drop.

For good selections, purchase daffodil, tulip, hyacinth and other spring blooming bulbs as they arrive at your nursery. Store in a cool area and plant in October when soil temperatures are in the 60's or cooler.

Cover crops like annual rye and crimson clover planted in unused areas of your garden help hold the soil in place and add organic matter when tilled into the soil next spring before planting.



Fertilize chrysanthemums now for lots of blooms this fall.

Gardening lore says plant trees, shrubs, and perennials in months which have the letter "r" in their names – September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April.

Clean up your vegetable garden space to decrease your pest problems next season.

Divide overcrowded groundcovers like ajuga and liriop and overgrown clumps of daylily, iris and coneflower this month.

Lightly trim and check your houseplants that have spent the summer on your patio for insects and disease and if necessary, treat them (following label directions) before moving them inside for the winter.



Dig sweet potatoes before frost.

To keep weed seeds from blowing into your cultivated garden area, keep turf surrounding your garden mowed, directing grass clippings away from your garden area.

Not all spring flowering bulbs bloom at the same time; check varieties and bloom times. For early color, "Early Sensation" is a daffodil variety that blooms in January.

Fertilize bulbs when you plant them because it is hard to locate them until they come up next spring.

Begin collecting dried materials for fall and winter arrangements and decorations.

Mulch trees and shrubs to protect your plants from temperature extremes and to keep the soil evenly moist. Keep mulch back 3 inches from the trunk to prevent damage and disease.



Plant your pansies and violas as the weather cools.

Fertilize roses one last time for the season so they will have time to slow down their growth before cold weather arrives.

Rake up fallen leaves and add them to your compost pile to create a rich soil amendment. If you do not have a compost pile, start one.

Edge and weed existing perennial beds. Use a granular weed-preventer (following label directions) to reduce winter weeds and apply mulch.

Azaleas and rhododendrons are forming flower buds now for next year so keep these plants watered to insure good bud formation and flowers next spring.

Take cuttings of coleus and geraniums to grow inside until next spring.

Replace mulch under trees and shrubs to prevent diseases on next year's foliage.

Fertilize fescue lawns following label instructions.

Perennials perform better in soil that drains well. When digging beds this fall, add compost and soil conditioners to help with drainage.

Remove faded blooms from pansies to keep them blooming and healthy.

Do not apply pesticides when temperatures exceed 85 degrees or when it is windy.

Root leaves of African violet plants to give as Christmas gifts.





## October Garden Chores

Harvest your pumpkins as the vines begin to dry.



Pick up fallen apples, peaches, pears and plums from under your trees and destroy them to avoid diseases next spring.

Plant trees and shrubs now. Their roots will have time to become well established before the demands of spring growth. Remove any twine or wire that is wrapped around the trunk when you plant.

Protect strawberries with a light layer of pine straw mulch.

Collect seeds from perennials and annuals. Clean them and store in a cool dry place. Plant them next spring.

As night temperatures approach the mid-50s, bring in houseplants that have spent the warm weather on your deck or patio. Check for insect infestation.

Rake fallen leaves from your lawn to keep them from matting down and killing your grass. Add them to your compost pile.

Lightly fertilize evergreen azaleas and rhododendron to prevent yellowing during winter.



Refurbish mulch around shrubs and trees but do not place mulch too close to the plant's trunk. Mulch helps control weeds, provides insulation for the roots during cold weather, and helps keep the soil moist.

Clean up old plant debris from this year's vegetable garden because insects and diseases can survive winter weather in this material. Before storing your tomato cages, remove old tomato vines from them.

Add spent plants from your vegetable and flower gardens and leaves to your compost pile. Do not put diseased plant material in your compost pile or you may spread disease to other plants when you use your compost. If you do not have a compost pile, start one.

Fall is a very good time to plant perennials like coneflower and black-eyed Susan, and divide existing perennials.

Do not heavily prune shrubs or trees now, as this will force new growth that will be susceptible to cold weather injury.

As the weather turns cool, plant spring flowering bulbs like tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and crocus. A general rule is to set bulbs three times as deep as the dimension of the bulb.

If your soil test indicates that your soil needs lime, now is the time to add it to your soil in the recommended amounts.

Dig sweet potatoes as the vines die back. Let them 'cure' in a dry, warm spot before storing.

If you have not already planted garlic, plant now for harvest next summer. Break garlic bulbs into individual cloves for planting, 3 inches deep and 4-6 inches apart.

Spread shredded leaves and manure over your vegetable garden soil and turn it under to improve soil fertility, structure, and water-holding capacity.

Fertilize freshly planted pansies with a water-soluble fertilizer. Switch to a nitrate nitrogen fertilizer as the weather gets cooler.

Cut chrysanthemums and asters back to about five inches tall after they have bloomed so they will sprout strongly in spring.

Top-dress your perennial beds with one or two inches of compost, keeping it away from the crown of your plants.

Fertilize established bulb beds with one-half cup per ten square feet of bulb fertilizer, always following package directions.

Plant peonies now. Buds should be no more than two inches below the soil surface.

Harvest mature green tomatoes before the first frost.

Before the first frost, cut and preserve herbs.



Water your soil before harvesting your carrots so they will be easier to pull. Once harvested, trim the tops so the leaves will not draw moisture out of the carrots, making them limp.

Carve a pumpkin.

Continue planting pansies and other cool season annuals like snapdragons and ornamental kale.

After the foliage dies back, dig caladium bulbs and store them loosely in dry peat moss or vermiculite for the winter.

Divide overgrown Boston ferns and repot.

Keep evergreen shrubs and small trees watered to help prevent damage from low temperatures.



Divide perennials like daylilies, phlox, and iris.

Replace areas of the lawn that are thin because of too much shade with a groundcover like liriop or ajuga.

If you have not already done so, dig caladium bulbs, dahlia tubers and elephant's-ear for winter storage. Dry them under shelter for about a week then store them loosely in dry peat moss.



## November Garden Chores

Have your garden soil tested if you have not already done so. Stop by your local Extension office for a soil test bag and instructions. If you need to add lime, add it now so it will have time to work into the soil. Wait until next spring to apply any fertilizer that is needed so the nutrients will not leach from the soil before spring planting.

Make a list of vegetable and plant varieties that performed well in your garden this season so you will be ready to order seeds for your spring plantings.

Fall is an excellent time to plant trees, shrubs, and perennials. Be sure to remove any wire that may be wrapped around the trunk and roots when you plant a tree.

Do not prune trees and shrubs now because the pruning will stimulate new growth that may be killed by freezes. Wait until January or February when they are dormant.

Do not be alarmed if your houseplants drop a few leaves when you bring them indoors after they have enjoyed the summer on your patio. This is normal as they adjust to less light and drier air inside your home.

There is still time to plant pansies. Fertilize them every two weeks with a water-soluble plant food and to encourage more bloom, remove faded flowers regularly. Switch to a fertilizer containing “nitrate nitrogen” and follow label directions as the weather gets colder.

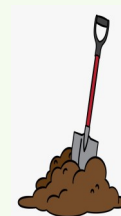
Consider planting unused areas of your vegetable garden with a cover crop like clover or put a layer of leaves on your garden. Plow it under about three weeks before spring planting and this will improve your soil by adding nutrients and organic matter.



Force bulbs to bloom indoors; a good choice is paperwhites.

Inventory and clean up your garden tools. If you need a tool, you may drop a hint to friends and family since the Christmas season is near.

Dig up bulbs that need to be stored for the winter like caladiums, elephant's-ear and dahlias.



Plant spring flowering bulbs now, and through the end of November.

To prepare your garden soil for planting next spring, turn your soil 8 to 12 inches deep with a spade or shovel to provide aeration and add composted organic matter.

Add a fresh layer of mulch to trees and shrubs to help insulate the roots as temperatures drop. Shredded leaves and pine straw are two choices.

Clean up your perennial borders by removing dry stems and dead leaves to help prevent a build-up of insects and diseases and add composted organic matter.

Set out fruiting plants from October to March.

Cut back on fertilizing your indoor plants and do not water them unless the soil feels dry.

Deciduous trees and shrubs can help with energy efficiency in your home. They provide shade in the summer and let sun shine in during the winter.

Plant Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*) now and it may bloom for you next February.

Collect okra seedpods, rose hips, gourds, and other material from your garden for dried flower arrangements and craft projects.

After your chrysanthemums and asters have quit blooming, cut them back to about five inches.

To keep your lawn healthy, rake fallen leaves regularly from your lawn. Use them in your compost pile or shred them and use them for mulch.

To help prevent damage to evergreen shrubs and small trees from low temperatures, make sure they receive adequate moisture as we enter the winter season.

Clean your tomato cages before storing them to prevent insects and diseases when you plant next spring.

Remove any remaining foliage left on peonies.



Leave hardy water lilies and fish in ponds deep enough not to freeze solid. Compost tropical water lilies.

Do not place your houseplants too close to a window because the draft can turn the leaves brown.

Scale insects on trees and shrubs can be controlled with dormant oils.

Pot up your Mandevilla vine and bring it indoors for the winter. Cut it back to 2 feet high and place it in bright light until spring.

Add a rain barrel to your gutter down spout to conserve rainwater for your garden.

If you do not have a compost pile, start one.

Keep your bird feeders filled with black oil sunflower seeds.

Keep pansies and other seasonal flowers watered regularly.





What's Blooming Now  
(or what has just finished blooming)  
From the Garden of Tom and Jo Anne Allen



Taccachantrieri in bloom  
Black Bat Flower (houseplant)



Colocasia gigantea  
Giant Elephant's-Ear



Papilio glaucus, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
on Tithonia rotundifolia 'Goldfinger'



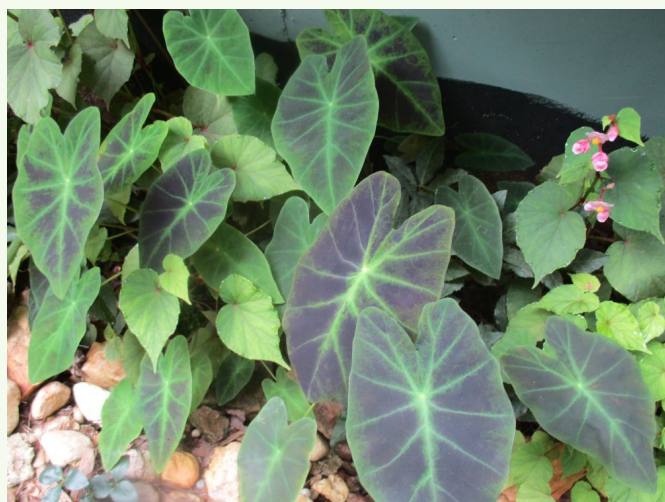
The pictures on the following three pages are contributions from Tommy Westbrook.  
Thank you Tommy and Henry, you have a lovely garden!



Strawberry Vanilla Hydrangea



Banana

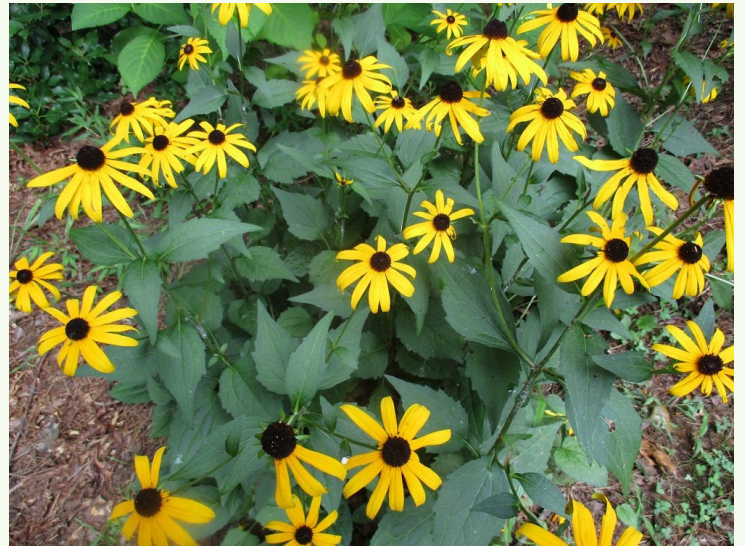


Black Elephant-Ear





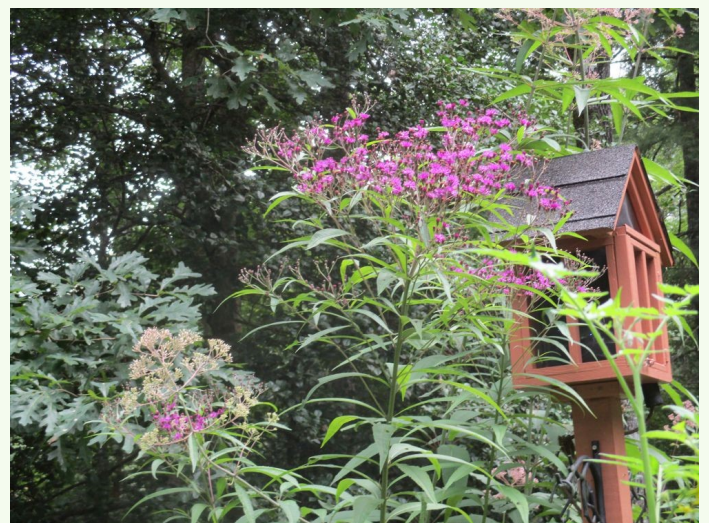
Joe Pye Weed



Brown-eyed Susan



Limelights



Tall Ironweed





Clethra



Phlox



Hydrangea paniculata 'Tardiva'



## Garden Paths

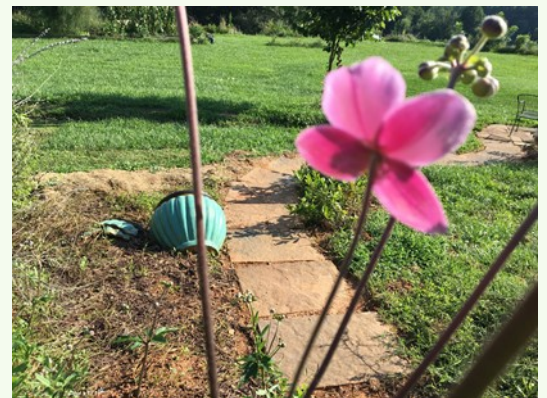
When I enter my back yard, I have a decision to make. Do I take the easy path to the firepit with the comfortable Adirondack chairs, or do I choose the mysterious curving way in the shadows, the one guarded by an alligator? Being the adventurous type, I usually chose the path in the shadows.



Once past the alligator, my legs brush against bronze fennel, rosemary, oregano, and my arms caress the dill weed. Pleasant fragrances, all.



I pass by other flowers, the queen to me is the *Anemone robustissima*, which is just beginning its fall color show. But what is the path's destination?



I see roses. What are they hiding?

continued on page 18

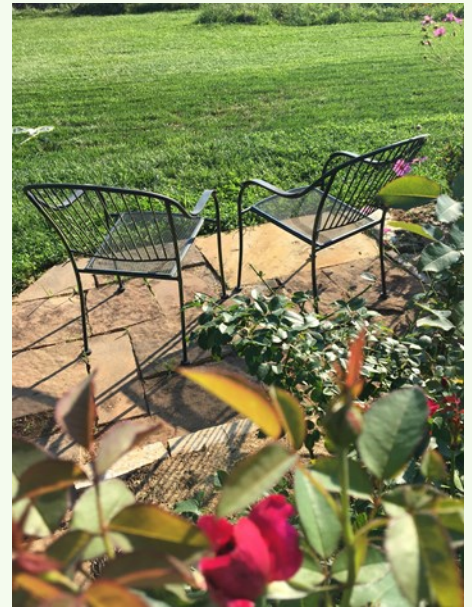


continued from page 17

Two chairs and a small paved patio; but why are they there?

It is the sensual stimulation from sitting in the chairs---the view of the badminton court, pristine from lack of use, and the distant mountains. And the silence. The COVID silence.

I stare at the empty court and the faraway mountains and contemplate this year, 2020. Then reflect on matches in previous years, ponder sentiments from years past, and muse over future contingencies.



I refresh, rejuvenate, and give thanks. Then I return home.

Jared Ogden  
Master Gardener Extension Volunteer

## Weeds I Love To Hate

### Spotted Spurge

*Euphorbia maculata*

Spotted spurge is a summer annual with many branched prostrate stems that do not root at the nodes. It grows in a mat-like form and has one fairly long tap root. Stems are smooth or hairy, and when you pull this weed and break the stem, you get a “milky” sap on your hands that can irritate your skin so be sure to wear gloves. Flowers are small and pink and leaves are opposite, usually with a purplish/reddish spot in the center (hence the name). It occurs in any disturbed area



and is found in the eastern United States (especially in my garden), west to North Dakota and Texas and into California and Oregon. It can quickly invade lawn and garden areas.

To control spotted spurge, hand pull it before it develops seeds because the seeds are hardy. Be sure to remove the entire tap root because it can grow back from a small piece of root left behind. Herbicides can be effective (always follow label directions) if applied in late spring or early summer when the plant is young. Mature plants can resist many weed killers. Pre-emergent sprays or granules can be used effectively only before seeds have sprouted.

As always, chemical controls should only be used as a last resort because organic approaches are safer and more friendly to our environment.

### Fall Is For Planting

Fall is for planting shrubs, trees and perennials in your landscape. Why? Because growing conditions are less stressful for plants in the fall. Plants have a better chance of establishing themselves and developing a strong root system when they are allowed to grow with minimum stress.

Generally there is more moisture in the soil in the autumn months, and because there is more moisture, nutrients are more readily available for your plants. Temperatures are cooler but the soil temperature is still warm from the summer heat, promoting growth and allowing development of feeder roots.

Plants that are planted in the fall have an opportunity to develop a good root system many months before summer stress sets in. Spring plantings have little or no time to establish good root systems before the cruel heat of the summer months arrives.

So, if you have an empty spot in your landscape that needs filling, please consider planting a tree or shrub or adding perennials to your borders.

Jo Anne Allen  
Master Gardener Extension Volunteer

## Eggplant Chicken Curry

1 pack of 8 chicken tenders  
5 Ping Tung or Orlando eggplant (or any small variety)  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 t ground ginger  
2 t red curry paste  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
1 13.5 oz can coconut milk  
1 T brown sugar  
1 T fish or oyster sauce  
Fresh cilantro  
¼ t pepper or to taste  
Salt to taste



In hot olive oil, sear 1" cubes of eggplant and chicken tenders until soft, about 5 minutes. Add chopped onions, ginger and minced garlic, stirring over medium heat until soft, just a minute or two. Reduce heat to low and stir in coconut milk, red curry paste, brown sugar, fish sauce and salt and black pepper to taste. Serve over fragrant jasmine rice and sprinkle with chopped fresh cilantro. Enjoy!

## Book Corner

Title: Designing With Plants

Author: Piet Oudolf with Noel Kingsbury

From the library of Jo Anne Allen and she gives this book 5 green thumbs out of 5.

Designing With Plants is an informative and visually breathtaking study of Piet Oudolf's planting theory and practice, and it provides all the advice necessary to create the same effects in your own garden. The photography in this book is stunning! His approach to gardening gives as much emphasis to form, texture, light and movement as it does to color. Chapters include: Introduction, Planting Palettes, Designing Schemes, Moods, Year-Round Planting and Plant Directory. There is also an index.