

Plant of the Month

Moon Flower

(*Datura wrightii*)

There are nine species of *Datura* that are native to North America. *Datura wrightii* is the most commonly variety in Texas. It is recognized and identified by a number of common names like Moonflower, Angel Trumpet, and Thorn Apple. The *wrightii* variety is a thick stalked perennial that dies completely to the ground and comes back year after year more and more lush. It reaches a height of 3-4 feet and can be twice as wide.

The leaves of this *Datura* are greyish green in color and are covered in fine hairs giving it a "fuzzy" appearance. The large brilliant white, trumpet shaped blooms are what give the Moonflower its name. *Datura* plants are extremely drought tolerant. They require little water once established and prefer full sun to perform at its best. It should be noted and caution taken as to its toxicity. Every part of the *Datura* is poisonous and must not be consumed. This is why its location in the landscape should be carefully planned to restrict access to children and pets.

by: Patrick Dickinson



Have you ever thought of incorporating edible plants into your home garden and landscape. Herbs, fruits and vegetables can add to the colors and textures of your permanent landscape combining both aesthetics and functionality.

Instead of planting a bed full of annuals, incorporate edible plants. You will benefit from the color and texture of the leaves, the beauty of the flowers, as well as the fruits of your labor.

Easy to Grow Vegetables

- Tomatoes
- Cabbage
- Squash
- Asparagus
- Spinach
- Beans & Peas
- Peppers
- Carrots
- Lettuce
- Onion

Irrigation Essentials

Checking Your Drip Line

Checking your drip line is essential to maintaining your landscape and sprinkler system.

When the drip line is out of site it can become out of mind. Exposing the drip line and running the zone to watch for some of the following can ensure that you are still getting the maximum efficiency out of your drip system:

- Even water pattern
- Clogs in the emitters

- Damages or leaks to the line

Drip Line Attackers

Are critters in your emitters? Small animals look for water sources especially in the summer months. A drip line is a water source they may utilize, so providing them with an alternative water source can potentially prevent them from damaging your drip line.

Examples of Alternative Water Sources:

- Wildlife waterers
 - Bird baths on the ground
- These sources can help keep small animals from damaging your drip line.

Contact a professional irrigator today if you feel your system needs a repair that is beyond your expertise.



August 2013

Easy to Grow Fruit Trees

- Meyer Lemon
- Loquat
- Peach
- Fig
- Plum

Herbs are also a great way to incorporate an edible. Some of you may already have some in your garden, such as the very delicious and aromatic Rosemary.

Easy to Grow Herbs

- Rosemary
- Curry
- Thyme
- Mint
- Sage
- Basil

More varieties can be found at

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/>



2013 Upcoming Courses

112 Vegetable Gardening - Fall

Sept 4th 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

102 Lawncare Maintenance

September 17th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

101 Landscape Basics

Sept 17th 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

114 Composting

October 10th 6:00 - 8:00 pm

103 Trees of North Texas

October 17th 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Register at <https://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/>

News to Know

DFW Builder Symposium

“Understanding the WaterSense Labeled Home”

Escalating drought conditions in the Southwest United States have created a need for more water efficient homes in this area.

As a result of this need, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center – Dallas has partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, WaterSense Program to host a symposium for Builders, Municipalities, Utilities, City Council, City Code Enforcement, City Planners, and Landscape Architects. This symposium will increase awareness of EPA’s WaterSense Labeled New Home Program, and other voluntary partnership programs, to promote building water efficient homes in our communities that are in harmony with other green home energy saving efforts.

Constant extreme drought conditions in the Southwest United States are now a fact; recently emphasized by the passage of House Bill 4 by the Texas Assembly and signed by

Governor Perry. This bill, which is a milestone for water conservation policy, provides \$2 billion to support various water supply, water conservation, and water reuse projects. It is the largest dedicated conservation and reuse project funding in any state to date. It was created because Texas recognizes that as the droughts continue, water shortages will intensify, and unless there is an increase in water conservation measures, including water efficient homes, Texas will suffer extreme physical and economic hardship.

Mark your calendars today for Wednesday, October 16, 2013, to attend this dynamic symposium on “Understanding the WaterSense Labeled Home” and to learn how you can lead your community in promoting and building water efficient homes.

For additional information about the DFW Builder Symposium, please contact Karen Sanders, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas at karen.sanders@tamu.edu or (972) 952-9671.

Resources

Water My Yard

Contains:

- Weather information
- Current and average evapotranspiration data
- Irrigation watering recommendations

www.watermyyard.org

[Keeping your Lawn Alive During Drought](#)

Who We Are

The Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas is a gateway to science, researchers and Extension educators across the U.S. The Center serves all of urban Texas, and the Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth metropolitan area in particular.

We're on the web!!

<http://dallas.tamu.edu/>



<https://www.facebook.com/AgriLifeDallas>

Landscape Essentials

The Right Plant for the Right Place

Are you seeing a plant or two that are struggling in your landscape? This is the time to start planning and rethinking those areas. With proper planning, plant selection, planting, watering, and maintenance, you can have a lush colorful landscape, that is also drought tolerant and heat tolerant.

This will also save you money on your water bill.

Native and Adaptive Plants

Planting Native plants are one of the best options, but not all plants in Texas started off here. Adaptive plants are a great option, too. They have proven to adapt and stand up to the Texas heat.

When purchasing your plants, make sure to pay close attention to the plant’s zoning on the plant tag. You can find your local plant zoning on the USDA website. Also, read the tag to find out about that plant’s size, light

requirements, and water requirements.

Proper plant selection is very important to the success of your landscape.

Local Resources

For advice on plants that are recommended in your area

- Contact our offices at Texas A&M AgriLife Research | Extension Dallas
- Contact a local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in your County
- Visit your local nursery or contact a horticulturalist.

All of these resources are an asset to you and your landscape’s success.

