

Urban Water E-News

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
RESEARCH | EXTENSION
Dallas Center

Plant of the Month

Pomegranate

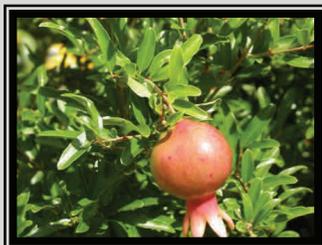
(*Punica granatum*)

Pomegranates have been valued for thousands of years for their thirst quenching juice, but in recent years Pomegranates have been valued more for their high level of antioxidants. These antioxidants are thought to improve health and extend the youthful appearance.

Most people do not realize that the Pomegranate shrub/tree is actually a beautiful shrub with reddish orange blooms that develop into the fruit they purchase at the market. Why not bring the antioxidant rich fruit directly to you and grow your own Pomegranate?

Pomegranates are hardy as far north as zone 7b and very drought tolerant self-efficient plants. They can be maintained as either a shrub or an ornamental tree and their blooms attract an endless variety of pollinators. Once established, they thrive in well-drained soil and minimal water, which works perfectly with today's water restrictions.

by: Patrick Dickinson



"Understanding the WaterSense Labeled Home"

Water continues to be a hot topic in Texas, with summertime temperatures and pervasive drought conditions impacting water resources across the state. Additionally, according to the Texas Water Development Board, the state's demand for water is likely to increase by 27 percent by 2060 when compared to the demand in 2000. But, you can be part of the solution by learning about the water-savings opportunities of [WaterSense labeled homes](#).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Region 6 is partnering with Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center – Dallas to host the "Understanding the WaterSense Labeled

Home" symposium on **Wednesday, October 16, 2013**. The symposium will feature the first WaterSense labeled home in north Texas, a retrofit project with hands-on educational opportunities in areas such as hot water on-demand systems, water-efficient fixtures, water-efficient landscaping and irrigation systems, rainwater harvesting, and rain garden design.

[Advanced registration](#) for this free symposium is available now.

We hope to see you there!

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.



Irrigation Essentials

Seasonal Adjustment of Irrigation Controllers

As the days get shorter and the night temperature cools, landscapes require less water. The growth of many plants slow and winter dormancy begins this time of year. Therefore, the amount of water required to maintain a beautiful landscape in the fall, winter and spring is different than the long, hot days of summer.

Irrigation controllers with a seasonal adjustment setting:

- Turn the dial or push the

- button labeled seasonal adjustment. The LCD screen will read a number that represents a percentage.
- The summer schedule usually reads 100% or 150%
- Reduce the seasonal adjustment to 80% or less for fall and spring.
- In November, after all the leaves have fallen, reduce percentage to 50% or less.

Irrigation controller without a seasonal adjustment:

- Reset frequency and each station's run time to reflect the water requirements for each season, or
- Turn the controller off and push the manual button to run the irrigation system when you determine if the landscape requires water.





2013 Upcoming Courses

107 Saving from a Rainy Day

Making a Rain Barrel

September 26th 6:00 - 8:00 pm

114 Composting

October 10th 6:00 - 8:00 pm

DFW Builders Symposium

“Understanding the WaterSense Labeled Home”

October 16th 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

103 Trees of North Texas

October 17th 6:00 - 8:00 pm

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

News to Know

A new state law prohibits homeowner associations from outlawing water conservation

Homeowners who want to try more conservative landscaping — and maybe save some money on their water bill — will have an easier time as of September 1, 2013.

A new state law prohibits homeowner associations from outlawing drought-tolerant landscaping, rain collection and composting.

An association can set reasonable regulations and require homeowners to submit landscape plans for approval, according to the law.

It's a matter of property rights and giving homeowners a way to manage their water bill, says the bill's sponsor, state Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin.

“We worked ... to represent homeowners associations and came up with a bill that will allow a reasonable approach,” he says. “We hit a smart balance.”

Watson says the law was necessary because some associations have been issuing blanket denials of low-water landscaping, also known as xeriscaping.

Some associations have prohibitions against rain barrels and composting. Rain collection can help irrigate or top off ornamental ponds and other water features without tapping into municipal water systems. Some associations and cities, however, have objected to the appearance of the water tanks.

Read the complete article by [Karel Holloway at Dallas Morning News](#)

Resources

Water My Yard

Contains:

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

www.watermyyard.org

[Protecting Your Foundation in Dry Conditions](#)

Cycle and Soak Method of Irrigation

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

Free Soil !!!

Do you want free soil? Do you want to keep the water and fertilizer you spent your hard earned money buying? Then it's time for you to start composting! Quit throwing away all of the “green” from your kitchen and garden, and start turning it into a usable resource.

Compost is simply decomposed organic material that is used as a nutrient rich plant supplement and garden soil. Composting is a natural process that occurs all around us, similar to that of a forest floor covered in leaves. When you practice home composting, you are simply speeding up the process that occurs on the forest floor.

What to compost:

- Fruit and Vegetable Scraps
- Leaves
- Grass Clippings

- Dead Plants and clippings
- Manure
- Tea leaves and bags
- Newspaper
- Cardboard

What NOT to compost:

- Meat
- Bones
- Fish
- Pet waste
- Dairy
- Fat and Grease

Home composting is a very simple process, and on the October 10th Composting class, you can learn how to get started, how to mix and maintain your own compost for your own use.

