



# CAN YOU DIG IT?

*Newsletter of the Piney Hills Louisiana Master Gardeners  
Winter 2016 Issue*

*Editor, Glenda Collums*



## President's Message

President, Connie Mason

Almost any garden seen at just the right moment, can be confused with paradise. I have seen many like that, gardens you can just get lost in their beauty. Nothing is more peaceful. As I write this, we still have beautiful fall leaves on the trees. Of course, I have a brown yard with all the leaves and acorns. I have never seen so many acorns. Bright side is, look at all the mulch. I can only imagine how beautiful spring will be. But not yet, as I am enjoying the break from all the yard work.

I want to thank all who came and participated in the Silent Auction. We did well.

Brenda and her crew did an awesome job on the Christmas party. Food was wonderful and entertainment was priceless. Thank you all.

Time to start marking your calendars for the new year. First MG meeting of the new year is Jan. 21. Buds & Blooms is February 27. Trails & Trellises coming too. We need everyone to be involved. Good time to add to those hours.

Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year!! Looking forward to all we have coming up and working together to keep this earth as beautiful as God made it.

And I leave you with this thought. When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or you take them with gratitude.

Connie

## County Agent's Corner

Lee Faulk, LSU MG Coordinator

As December winds down, the holidays seem to dominate our time, energy, and finances. What a wonderful time of year this is. Everyone seems just a little friendlier, warmer, and giving this time of year. As I grow older, I find myself reminiscing more and more about Christmas's past, and family members and friends no longer with us. I think often about my great-grandmother, Lena Faulk, who came from a generation in which gardening wasn't a hobby, rather a necessity. My grandparents, Vernon and Nova Faulk, and Frank and Jewel Parkerson were raised in a time when vegetable gardening was a way of providing food for their families throughout the year. My grandparents Vernon and Nova first introduced me to vegetable gardening. My maternal grandparents, Frank and Jewel, were avid beekeepers and gardeners. Every time I talk to a gardener about coco grass or nutgrass problems, I think of my great-uncle, Tommy Faulk. While he was an excellent gardener, he struggled with this problem in his vegetable garden. My time spent with them planting, weeding, harvesting, collecting and processing honey, and of course eating the end products will never be forgotten. Though they have all gone from this Earth, the memories of them and time spent gardening, eating, and at Christmas time will forever be with me.

I heard a statistic the other day that the average American is 3-4 generations removed from the farm and food production in general. That statistic won't make the headlines in the newspapers, and will probably not be mentioned on the television

news programs. I feel that statistics such as this are the reason why our Master Gardener program is so vital and needed. It's important for us to educate the public on horticulture and gardening. Let people know that flowers don't have to come from the florist, and peas don't have to come from the frozen food section of the grocery store. Our job of educating and getting others involved in gardening is crucial to future generations' success.

Changing subjects a bit, I would like to discuss the winter season briefly. Many gardeners aren't fond of winter. They view it as a time when they can't get out and enjoy their gardens and do what they love. The winter season does not have to be a dormant period for gardeners. Just because we may not be in our preferred growing season does not mean there aren't things to do. Winter is an excellent time to review your garden, what you really liked about it this year, what you really didn't like. It's a great time to plan out what you would like to do this spring. Winter is also a great time to complete projects in the garden you may not have had time to during the spring and summer. A warm, relatively dry January day (which we do on occasion have) is a great time to complete that border project you've wanted to get done around your flowerbed. Or maybe you would like to use a nice day to install a raised bed vegetable garden that will be ready to go in the spring. Winter is also the preferred time to soil sample and amend the soil in your garden or lawn if necessary. Don't forget that winter is the best time to plant and prune most trees, including crape myrtles. Also, January and February are great times to get those winter and early spring weeds under control in your lawns. When you add it all up, winter is not such a slow time for gardeners after all.

### Rose Rosette Disease

Rose Rosette, a devastating disease in roses, was confirmed last month in Bossier City. Rose Rosette is caused by a virus and can be lethal to many types of roses (including Knock Outs). Symptoms are diverse, but can include excessive thorniness, thickened new canes, abnormal discolorations, or excessive reddening of new foliage. Some symptoms may be confused with

herbicide damage or other pests. The virus is carried by tiny eriophyd mites that travel from plant to plant or move long distances with the wind. The virus is systemic, and can persist in the live roots of infected plants. If Rose Rosette is diagnosed in your garden, you will need to remove the infected plants, including the roots. Management of Rose Rosette in infected roses is not possible. Once infected, there is no cure. Gardeners are encouraged to buy healthy roses that display no symptoms, and avoid wild multiflora roses which are highly susceptible to Rose Rosette. Here is a link that contains more information on Rose Rosette and pictures...  
<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/074A1A97-65A9-4770-9049-059E2A74D5DD/98105/pub3355RosetteDiseaseFINAL.pdf>

If you suspect you have this, please contact me and we'll work on getting it properly identified and discuss control methods.

Question of the Quarter:

From a homeowner in the Minden area...

"Someone told me that I could use the ashes from my fireplace in my garden. Is this true?"

Wood ashes can be a valuable amendment to the soil in your garden, if needed. Research has found that wood ashes contain on average 6% potassium-potash content, and also have an acid neutralizing capability comparable to 20% of lime. Ashes actually work to raise the pH of soil quicker than traditional lime. On the downside, wood ash has been found to be high in sodium. The rate of application varies widely, depending on soil type, pH, and sodium levels. The general rule of thumb is 10-20 gallons of wood ash per 1000 square feet. Sandier soils need closer to 10; other soils need closer to 20. The only true way to know if you need amendments to the soil is by soil sampling.

In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to the Master Gardener program and the Piney Hills Master Gardeners. Take an opportunity this holiday season to reflect on all the blessing we've

been given, and enjoy time spent with family and friends. I look forward to what 2016 brings to the Piney Hills Master Gardeners.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Until next time,

Lee Faulk

Assistant County Agent

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## Master Gardener of the Quarter



*Master Gardener, Connie Mason*

Each quarter the membership of the Piney Hills Master Gardeners select a deserving member as *Master Gardener of the Quarter*.

Each member of the organization submits their candidate by secret ballot. The votes are then counted and the results announced. Deciding on a candidate is hard with all of the possible choices in our group.

Connie Mason was chosen as the *Master Gardener of the Quarter* for the first quarter of 2016!

Marjorie was asked these three questions:

1. Why did you become a Master Gardener?

2. What is your favorite thing about being a Master Gardener?

3. What do you think is the most important thing you have learned as a Master Gardener?

Here is her reply:

*I became a MG because I have always loved the trees in all their seasons... bushes and flowers. I think maybe that love started with my Grand-mama and Poppie. They were farmers and I loved watching all the things grow. Grand-mama had two rose bushes that to this day I wish I had dug up. One was a beautiful white rose and the other a pink sweet heart rose. I must say that I loved to eat what they grew, too. The picking and shelling just made you appreciate it more.*

*My favorite thing is the sharing of plant information and new ideas. Being in a club that we share the same interests and share what we learn with each other.*

*The most important thing I have learned is that we are never too old to learn and that gardening will keep you going. It is always refreshing to get out in the yard and work.*

Connie has been a Master Gardener since 2011. Since that time, she has worked tirelessly on numerous Master Gardener projects. As our current President, she continues to serve and promote the interests of the PHLMG. Congrats to Connie as Master Gardener of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016!



## **MANAGE TROPICALS IN THE WINTER** **LANDSCAPE**

*By Dan Gill*

*LSU AgCenter Horticulturist*



*Herbaceous plants – like gingers – can be cut back a few days after a killing freeze. (Photo by Dan Gill, LSU AgCenter)*

As cold winter weather begins to settle in over the state, we can expect freezing temperatures in the 20s and even occasionally the teens for the next few months. And cold weather brings concerns for tropical plants in our landscapes.

When we use the terms “tropical” or “tropical plants,” we are referring to plants native to parts of the world where temperatures are warm year-round and freezing temperatures do not occur. As a result, plant species native to these climates have evolved little ability to withstand subfreezing temperatures. Because we live in a mild, temperate climate where winter temperatures can go well below freezing, these tropical plants are subject to injury or death during our winters.

What is it, then, that makes us want to grow tropicals? Perhaps it is that our winters may be mild-temperate, but our summers are definitely hot, humid and rainy like much of the tropics. It is very satisfying to watch tropical plants flourish in our hot, rainy summer weather and provide bold foliage and color.

Another reason for the popularity of tropical plants is their incredible beauty. They often have large leaves that create a lush look in the landscape. Many tropicals are grown for their exotic flowers and have extended bloom periods that stretch through the summer months. They keep on flowering no matter how hot it gets. In addition,

tropicals produce some of our most fragrant garden flowers.

### *Hardy vs. tender*

Hardy and tender are gardening terms that refer to how much cold a plant can tolerate. Hardy indicates plants that will reliably survive winter temperatures where you garden without much or any protection.

The term tender applies to plants that would not reliably survive the cold of a typical winter where you garden. Many tropicals are tender. We use these plants as well in our landscapes. Although a series of mild winters may lull you into thinking these plants are hardy in your landscape, a winter is sure to eventually come along to show you otherwise. Tender tropical plants should not form the backbone of your landscape. Place them strategically in the landscape to provide bold, tropical accents.

You can find a huge selection of hardy trees, shrubs, lawns, perennials and ground covers native to climates like ours that are available. These hardy plants are not bothered by winter cold. And a goodly number of tropical plants have enough hardiness to reliably survive winters in Louisiana, especially in the southern part of the state. But north Louisiana gardeners grow tropicals, too.

In most cases, hardy plants and hardier tropicals should form the backbone and majority of your landscape planting. Otherwise, you run the risk of losing and having to replant a substantial part of your landscape every few years.

If you expect tender plants to survive a hard to severe winter freeze, you have to be willing to protect them as needed through the winter – and this can add considerably to landscape maintenance. Because of their beauty and reliable summer performance, however, we are often willing to protect them over the winter or replace them when lost to cold.

Protection includes deep mulching to protect the base of the plant. If the top freezes, the lower parts



protected by the mulch may survive and resprout. Protection also may be provided by covering the entire plant with plastic sheets, tarps, cardboard boxes, fabric sheets and other materials.



*Pine straw traps plenty of air and provides good insulation for what it covers. (Photo by Dan Gill, LSU AgCenter)*



*Cover tender plants with cloth that's supported to prevent breaking the plant and secure the cloth at ground level to keep out the cold. (Photo by Dan Gill, LSU AgCenter)*

If protection is too much trouble, you may just decide to allow the tender tropicals to die and replace them in the spring. I like to plant a mandevilla vine on a trellis. The plant costs about \$15 and grows and blooms beautifully all summer. When winter freezes come, I don't protect it. I grow it as an annual and only expect to get one season. I'm perfectly happy to spend another \$15 in spring to purchase a new plant and save myself the bother of protecting a plant all winter.

So, here are the points I'd like you to consider when using tropicals in your landscape:

All tropicals are not equally hardy or tender. Some tropical are killed by temperatures in the upper 20s while others can survive temperatures in the upper teens – particularly those that have underground bulbs, rhizomes or tubers. Research or inquire at the nursery about the hardiness of any tropicals

you consider planting in your landscape. Choose hardier tropicals when possible.

Limit the use of tender tropicals in your landscape to some degree to prevent major devastation to your landscape when we experience severe freezes. Remember, use tropicals to embellish rather than as a major component.

And finally, be most leery about planting tropicals that will grow to be large plants or trees. If a series of mild winters allows them to grow large, they will be impossible to protect. When freezes kill them, they leave major gaps in the landscape and can be expensive to remove.

## **DON'T NEGLECT WINTER GARDEN CHORES**

By Allen Owings, LSU AgCenter horticulturist

HAMMOND, La. – Most of us relax during late fall and winter. Our minds turn more toward the holiday seasons and less toward our landscaping and gardening efforts. Many activities, however, should be included in a "to-do list" of gardening tasks for December, January and February.

It is important to remember that most spring-flowering bulbs should be planted in early December.

Tulips and hyacinths must be refrigerated for six weeks before planting in late December or early January. These plants behave as annuals in Louisiana. And both work especially well in container plantings.

If you are planting cool-season bedding plants, you can remove old flowers – or deadhead – to extend flowering performance.

Plant gladiolus in mid- to late February in south Louisiana and in early to mid-March in north Louisiana. Consider ordering bulbs now to be ready for planting later. You can prolong the blooming season by planting more bulbs at

two- to three-week intervals for a couple of months.

Depending on the winter growing conditions, watch azaleas for lace bugs beginning in early February in south Louisiana and late February in north Louisiana. These insects feed underneath lower foliage and cause the leaves to have numerous small white spots. Control these pests with horticultural oil sprays, spinosad or acephate.

Petunias should be planted in mid- to late winter in Louisiana. They survive frosts quite well. February is the best month to plant. Try Supertunias and the Wave types.

Winter is a great time for planting trees. January 16, 2015, is Arbor Day in Louisiana. Some excellent native tree species for Louisiana include nuttall oak, Southern red oak, willow oak, red maple, Southern magnolia, bald cypress and mayhaw.

February is the ideal time to fertilize shade trees and fruit trees. January and February are good months to prune landscape trees and any deciduous and evergreen plants that don't flower in the spring.

Clean and sharpen tools before you put them away. Wipe the metal blades with an oily cloth to coat them with a thin layer of protective oil to help prevent corrosion. Coat wooden handles with protectants such as a sealer, tung oil or varnish.

February is a good time to plant container or bare-root roses. Bare-root rose bushes should be planted by the end of February. Early planting allows rose bushes to become established in their new locations before they begin to bloom. This increases the number and quality of flowers, and the bushes are better prepared to deal with summer heat when it arrives in May. Plant roses in sunny, well-prepared beds that have excellent drainage.

If you have ornamental grasses, prune them in late February prior to new growth. This is also the time to prune liriope. It is important to remove the brown leaves before the new growth emerges and mixes with the dead leaves. Electric hedge trimmers are a good tool to use for this job of "trimming back".

### **3 TIPS FOR FEEDING SUET THIS WINTER**

by Rob Ripma, [Birdsandblooms.com](http://Birdsandblooms.com)

Once the weather turns cold, it's time to put out suet for your backyard birds. Suet is a great food for the winter months as it is a high energy food that is very valuable when temperatures drop. Here are a few of my favorite tips and tricks for feeding suet to your birds this winter.

1. Offer suet with peanuts or dried fruit mixed in. These foods will provide additional nutritional value, and the birds will love the extra treat!
2. The larger woodpeckers need a place to put their tail when perched on a feeder and will be much more comfortable on a suet feeder with a tail prop. This will make them likely to spend more time on your feeder.



*Pileated Woodpeckers love suet and they love to have a feeder with a tail prop to feed on.*

3. If you are having issues with too many starlings at your suet, try using an upside down suet feeder. Woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, and many others have no problem hanging upside down, but the starlings have much more trouble doing it. It won't completely stop the starlings, but it will decrease the amount of suet they are eating.



©Robert Ripma

*Suet is a great way to attract both White-breasted (Pictured) and Red-breasted Nuthatches.*

### **SILENT AUCTION WAS A SUCCESS!**



*Auction item and photo provided by Brenda Perryman*

The November meeting of the Piney Hills LA Master Gardeners was the scene of the annual silent auction.

Numerous items were donated for this annual event by the PHLMG membership as well as the LSU AgCenter.

After a wonderful meal, organization members and guests, scurried around getting that last bid in on a coveted item.

When all was said and done, everyone went away happy and a \$1000.00 was earned to be used for current and future projects!

### **TIPS FOR PRUNING IN WINTER & EARLY SPRING**



*When pruning trees, work with their natural form. Do not butcher trees as has been done to these crape myrtles.*

*(Photo by Dan Gill, LSU AgCenter)*

*By Dan Gill*

*LSU AgCenter Horticulturist*

Pruning is one gardening job that often is neglected because gardeners are not exactly sure what to do. There is a great deal of confusion about how to prune, when to do it and even why pruning is done.

As a result, pruning is often delayed until radical and extensive pruning is required. Now is an excellent time to evaluate your landscape for pruning that needs to be done because many plants can be pruned now through February.

Pruning is something that you just have to get used to doing. Some plants won't grow just the way we want them to and so will need to be shaped. There always will be plants that grow larger than we anticipated and need to be regularly pruned to control their size. Dead branches, diseased tissue



and insect infestations may be pruned for the health of the plant. Then there are special situations such as topiary, espalier and bonsai where careful, selective pruning is used to completely alter the plant's normal growth patterns. The list goes on. Pruning is simply a part of regular gardening activities.

A wide variety of plants may be pruned during the winter and early spring, including most woody plants such as trees and shrubs, hedges, screens and foundation plantings that are not grown for their flowers. Both evergreen and deciduous plants may be pruned.

For trees and shrubs that are grown for their flowers, you must consider when they bloom before you decide when to prune them.

You should avoid extensive pruning of spring-flowering trees and shrubs that bloom from January through April, such as Japanese magnolia, star magnolia, silver bell, parsley hawthorn, Taiwan flowering cherry, quince, azalea, Indian hawthorn, deutzia, philadelphus, spirea, banana shrub, wisteria and camellia. These plants have already set their flower buds for spring bloom, and any pruning done before they bloom will reduce the floral display these plants will produce.

On the other hand, summer-flowering trees and shrubs, such as crape myrtle, vitex, althea, oleander and abelia, do not have flower buds set on them now. These plants set their flower buds and will bloom on the new growth they produce in spring and early summer. As a result, they may be pruned during winter and early spring and will still bloom well.

A few shrubs, including gardenia, hydrangea, some old garden roses and climbing roses, are in a category of their own. They bloom in early summer, but they have already produced their flower buds or flowering shoots for next year. Extensive pruning done from now until they bloom next year will greatly reduce or eliminate flowering. Prune these plants in midsummer soon

after they have finished blooming to avoid problems.

Once you have decided to prune, the real dilemma is how exactly to do it. Most gardeners feel they don't know what they are doing, and they are afraid of damaging or killing the plants they prune. There is no simple answer. A book cannot tell you exactly how you should prune a particular plant in your landscape. Each plant is different; the desires and needs of each gardener are different, and each situation is unique. Advice such as "try to maintain the natural shape of the plant" is good, but not very helpful. You can, however, at least make sure you prune at the proper time. You also can become familiar with the basic pruning techniques we use to shape and control plants.

Heading back involves shortening shoots or branches and stimulates growth and branching. Heading back is often used to control the size of plants, encourage fullness, rejuvenate older plants and maintain specific shapes as in topiary and espalier. Often overused by gardeners, careless heading back can destroy the natural form of a plant in situations where the natural shape is desirable.

Shearing is a specialized type of pruning that is done with a pruning tool called shears, which look like large scissors. This technique is a variation on heading back and is used to create geometric shapes, espalier or topiary common in formal landscape designs. Shearing should not be used for general pruning such as controlling size. The result will be clipped formal shapes that require a lot of work to maintain.

Thinning out removes shoots or branches at their point of origin, either back to a branch fork or back to the main trunk. Thinning cuts can control the size and shape of a plant while doing a better job of maintaining the plant's natural shape. Thinning cuts do not stimulate growth and often work more with the plant's natural growth patterns to correct problems.



The only way to gain confidence in pruning is to do it. Practice makes perfect, as that saying goes. The first step to gaining confidence is to ask yourself, and fully answer, two questions before pruning begins. First, why, specifically, do you feel this plant needs to be pruned? Or, what specific goal do you want to accomplish; what problem do you need to correct? If you can't come up with a good reason to prune a plant, leave it alone. Second, how should the plant be pruned to accomplish the goal? Study the plant carefully and decide what specifically needs to be done before you begin.

It is unlikely that you will kill or permanently damage a plant under most circumstances, even if you do something wrong when you prune. So, grit your teeth and go for it. The more you prune, the better and more confident you will become.

## THAT WHICH WE CALL A ROSE

*By Loice Kendrick-Lacy*

Do you think that horsetail, cranesbill, catsclaw hound's tongue, lizard's-tail, goats beard, and goat head refer to animals' anatomical parts? Not exclusively. All are common names for plants of widespread distribution and allude to a resemblance of some part of the plant to the object for which the plant is named.

Some plants have a dozen or more different common names as is illustrated by *Houstonia*. This genus is known as bluets, Quaker ladies, Quaker bonnets, star-violet, little washerwoman, blue-eyed babies, wild forget-me-not, eye-bright, angel eyes, nuns, innocents, star of Bethlehem, and Venus' pride. In other instances, the same name is applied to any number of totally unrelated plants. Bluebell can be any of the following: A perennial herb (*Mertensia virginica*) in the Borage family; a freely climbing more or less herbaceous vine (*Clematis pitcheri*) in the Crowfoot family; an annual herb (*Eustoma grandiflorum*) in the Gentian family, or any of several species of the genus *Campanula*, members of the Bluebell family.

Because of the perplexity of common names varying with different localities, scientific names are necessary to eliminate confusion. But despite their limitations, common plant names are still preferred by many lay people for their simplicity and, often, descriptiveness. Such names can be poetic, charming, suggestive, puzzling, or even downright deceptive. In some cases, one is left to wonder why a particular name has become associated with a plant, but even though many are misnomers, names of longstanding become those plants to which they refer. Shakespeare's Juliet said, "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." But consider the aesthetic adjustment if rose were changed to ragweed, lilac to lousewort, or holly to horse-nettle! 400 years later, a rose is still a rose even as Romeo remained a Montague.

Some plants have common names so descriptive of obvious physical characteristics that an explanation of the origin would be superfluous. Anyone familiar with such plants as bitter weed, lady's slipper, shooting star, goldenrod, cat-tail, blazing-star, Indian paintbrush, black-eyed Susan, devil's-walking-stick, trumpet vine, elephant's ear, or coneflower - to name but a few - would not question their nomenclature. Space here will be devoted to brief explanations of what is commonly believed to be the origins of a few interesting plant names:

**TOUCH-ME-NOT:** when touched the dried seedpods split and explosively cast their seeds in all directions.

**BLOODROOT:** horizontal rootstock is a fleshy rhizome containing a blood-red juice used by the Indians for dye.

**BLACKBERRY LILY:** shiny black seeds closely resemble blackberries.

**DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES:** the flower "breeches" hang upside down, being attached at the crotch to a stem.

**ST. ANDREW'S CROSS:** four yellow petals aligned in X-shape of the St. Andrew's cross.

**JACOB'S LADDER:** ladder-like arrangement of the leaflets.

**SKULLCAP:** seeds shaped like a skullcap.

**BEARDTONGUE:** rather than producing pollen, one of the five stamens is modified into a hairy "tongue", probably to attract insects.

**MILFOIL:** this word of French origin means a "thousand leaves" **IRONWEED:** refers to hardness and stiffness of the stems.

**GREEN DRAGON:** segments of deeply divided leaves resemble dragon's claws.

**CRANESBILL:** seedpods form sharply pointed "cranes' bills".

**HOUND'S TONGUE:** descriptive of large, soft, floppy leaves.

**EVENING PRIMROSE:** the flowers, which depend on night-flying moths for pollination, open very suddenly - movement is visible - in late afternoon and close early the following morning if the day is sunny.

**SOAPWORT:** contains a mucilaginous sap which forms lather in water.

**ROSIN WEED:** contains a resinous sap.

**CATCHFLY:** has a sticky substance on stems which traps insects.

**SNEEZEWEED:** powered disk flowers, once used as snuff, cause violent sneezing.

**HOP TREE:** the unripe seeds have been substituted for hops in making beer.

**NEW JERSEY TEA:** a tea which does not contain caffeine was brewed from the leaves during the American Revolution.

**HENBIT:** constitutes a "bit for the hen" as it is eaten by both wild and domestic birds.



*Heal-All*

**SELF-HEAL or HEAL-ALL:** widespread belief in its healing power for numerous ailments.

**BONESET:** used in early times to supposedly dull the pain when setting bones.

**DAISY FLEABANE:** dried flower heads were believed to repel fleas



*Rattlesnake Master*

**RATTLESNAKE-MASTER:** early American folklore attribute medicinal properties to the juice of this plant as a remedy for rattlesnake bites.

**SCOURING-RUSH or HORSETAIL:** plant has a high miner; content with abrasive action. (Try polishing an old penny.) The name refers to the appearance which is that of a horse's tail neatly tied.

**COMPASS PLANT:** the edges of the lower leaves are turned north and south when growing in full sun.

**JUDAS TREE (redbud):** according to legend Judas hanged himself from a tree of this genus.

**FROSTWEED:** contorted ice shapes, or "frost flowers are formed when water is forced through cracks just above the roots during the first severe freeze of the winter.

**CENTURY-PLANT:** the name is misleading as the plant blooms only once - after 8 to 20 years (not 100!).

**SENSITIVE PLANT:** leaves are "touch sensitive" closing upward against each other when pressed. This action is a result of pressure exerted from within against the cell walls by the cell contents.

**SUNFLOWER:** the flower heads turn to follow the sun.

**OBEDIENT PLANT:** flowers can be pushed right or left and they will remain in the position to which they are turned.

And a ROSE....is called a rose because, the Bard's opinion notwithstanding, by no other name would it smell as sweet.

Loice Kendrick-Lacy

## PHLMG CHRISTMAS PARTY



*Photo provided by Brenda Perryman*

December 3, 2016 the PHLMG celebrated Christmas at the First United Methodist Church in Minden.

A wide assortment of food was provided for the potluck meal. Turkey, pork loin, casseroles and scrumptious desserts loaded down the tables. Many thanks to all who contributed!

Brenda Perryman and her crew again did a wonderful job of organizing and decorating for this event.

Entertainment was provided by Ukulele Gumbo. Songs were sung, toes were tapped, and a good time was had by all!!

### A Useful Tip from Louisiana Blooms

[www.louisiana blooms.com](http://www.louisiana blooms.com)

Are you seeing bits of what appears to be cotton on the container plants you brought in for the winter? Chances are, it's actually mealybugs, insects that feed on plant sap. You can use a houseplant insecticide listed for their control to eliminate them, but you might first try a home remedy. Moisten a cotton swab in rubbing alcohol and dab the insects. Be sure to test first on a small area to determine the plant's tolerance for the alcohol.

## Pumpkin Pecan Cobbler

*Recipe provided by Evalyn Cabell*

**Yield: 8 servings Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook Time: 40 minutes Total Time: 50 minutes**

### **Ingredients:**

1 cup + 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon cloves  
1/2 cup pumpkin puree  
1/4 cup milk  
1/4 cup melted butter or vegetable oil  
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

### **Topping:**

1/2 cup granulated sugar  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1/4 cup chopped pecans  
1 1/2 cups very hot water

### **Directions:**

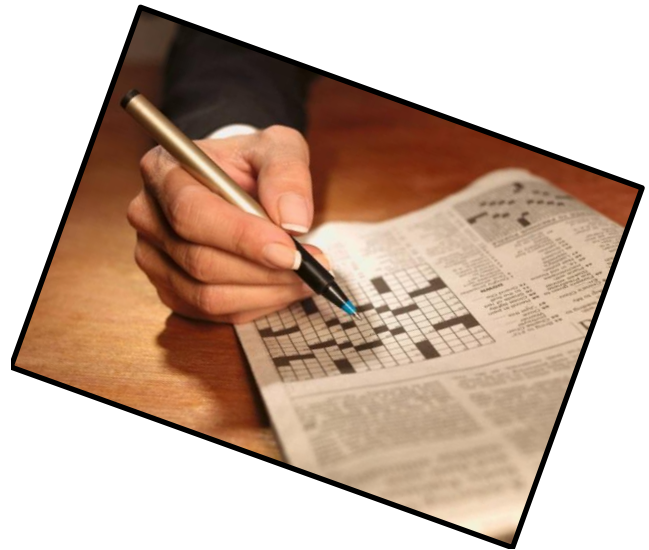
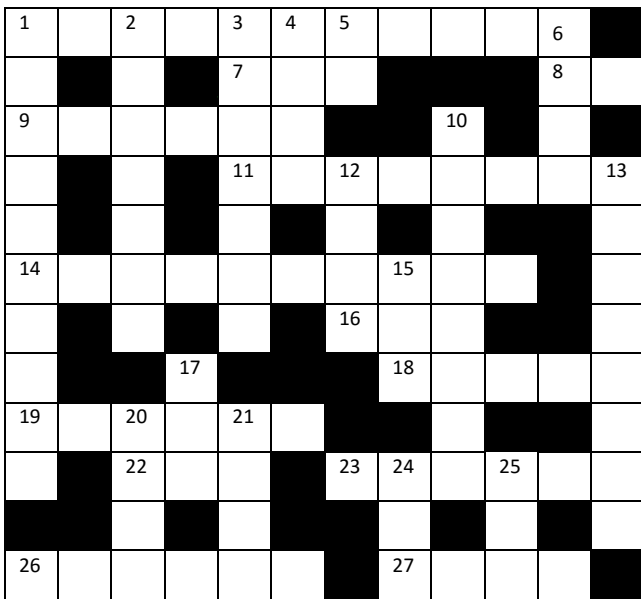
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a medium sized bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, salt, sugar and spices. Set aside.

In a smaller bowl, stir pumpkin, milk, melted butter and vanilla together to combine. Pour wet ingredients into dry ingredients and mix to create a thick batter. Pour into a small 8-inch casserole dish with high sides.

In a separate bowl, stir sugar, brown sugar and pecans together. Spread over the top of the batter evenly. Pour hot water over the entire thing {WITHOUT STIRRING A THING!} and bake for 40 minutes or once the middle is set. {Be sure to place on a baking sheet in case it bubbles over.} Cool 5-10 minutes before serving. Serve with more pecans and vanilla ice cream.

**QUARTERLY CROSSWORD FOR YOUR  
ENJOYMENT—PROVIDED BY LINDA  
CHRISTY**



**ACROSS:**

1. Activities for observing a special occasion.
7. To take food into the mouth and swallow it.
8. Of or relating to agriculture.
9. A slender, creeping branch of a plant that roots at the end or at a joint.
11. Brought to desired hardness or strength by heating and cooling.
14. A branched lamp with many lights.
16. To move your head up and down as a way of showing agreement.
18. Having color of growing grass.
19. A small animal that has 6 legs and a body formed of 3 parts and may have wings.
22. A swift running Australian bird that cannot fly.
23. A common reddish metallic element that is a good conductor of heat and electricity.
26. A small roundish crisp root that has a sharp, spicy taste and is usually eaten raw.
27. To continue having or holding something: to not return, lose, sell or give away or throw away.

**DOWN:**

1. A horn-shaped container full of fruits and flowers, often used in fall decorations.
2. Any of a genus of tropical shrub of vervian family with showy heads of small bright flowers.
2. Any of an order (Coleoptera) of insects having 4 wings.
4. Seldom occurring or found.
5. Used to indicate the place where someone or something is.
6. A word or phrase that refers to or that can refer to a specific person.
10. Something that is shaped like a falling tear, pointed at the top and rounded at the bottom.
12. A low prolonged sound of pain or of grief.
13. This genus includes plants whose flowers & leaves grow on stems directly from the roots.e.g. bleeding heart
15. Wet, spongy ground.
17. Medical abbreviation for Rapid Eye Movement.
20. A small object produced by a plant from which a new plant can grow.
21. Small round containers with handles used for drinking liquids such as coffee or tea.
24. A type of tree that produces acorns.
25. A food consisting of a pastry crust and a filling.

*Answers can be found the last page, but don't cheat!*





## How to Make DIY Glass Flowers

[Thriftynorthwestmom.com](http://Thriftynorthwestmom.com)

If you do not have the patience to grow real flowers, or if you do love to garden and add art pieces as accents to your garden, you are going to love these glass flowers, made from recycled materials. They are the perfect upcycle project for the summer time, and make beautiful gifts for others too. This is the perfect time of the year to start collecting pieces to make these glass flowers too, since garage and estate sales are prevalent this time of the year. Spend a weekend shopping for used dishes, bowls, and more that you love. Look for shapes and colors that will blend well, and nest inside each other.

If you are interested in making the glass flowers for your garden, here are some tips to use while

shopping for the glass (and then see below on how to make the glass flowers with plates and more)!

Tips for shopping for dishes to make Glass Plate Garden Flowers:

- Start by searching your own cupboards to see what dishes you might already have on hand. It could be a great way to display that special dish you have been holding onto from your great grandma for instance.
- Other great sources for dishes are thrift shops (shop their sale days), garage sells and neighbors and family members (let them know to drop their unwanted dishes off with you.
- Think beyond just your standard dishes. For example large bowls or chargers make great larger flowers. Old glass ash trays make nice centerpieces for the flowers, and bowls and small vases will make a nice funnel looking flower.
- If you have storage space, stack all of your plates you are collecting on a shelf. It makes it so fun to mix and match and design flowers that way (and my kids love to get involved and get creative too)!
- Have fun with it!

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Here is how you can make your own version of these beautiful glass flowers from items you may have at home, find at a garage or thrift sale, or barter with your friends for. Display them in your house, use them as gifts, or hang them on walls in your garden. However you choose to display them, they are likely to be a big hit with visitors.

To display in a garden, you can either add a picture hanging piece on the back and hang on a fence, or put a nice solid wooden stake in the ground and mount on that.



**Cost:** Under \$5 for flower shown above, cost will depend on what you pay for your plates.

**Supply List:**

- Plates
- Glue (epoxy glue or Gorilla glue)
- Plate stand or plate hanger

The most important part of this project is finding the glassware. We found ours at a local second hand store. The largest size plate for this flower was a salad plate. That plate and the two yellow plates were \$.97 ea. The small flower in the middle was a tea light candle holder we paid \$.50 for and the decorative button in the middle was a piece we pulled off a pull knob (another \$.50). The cost of our plates was \$3.91. The plate holder was one we found at the dollar store for you guessed it, \$1. I used glue left over from a cake stand project I did, but you will pay anywhere from \$1 – \$4 for glue (my dollar store sometimes carries epoxy glue for \$1).

The first thing to keep in mind when shopping for glass is to think of the big picture. Each of these pieces on their own might be considered a bit tacky. Take the gold plated cat plate pictured above, that we used for the back of our flower. This is actually 14 carat gold, so a special plate, but because it looked a little dated on its own we got it for a great price. You also want to think about dimensions. Things that fit inside each other, and give a more traditional flower look to them work well. You can use bowls if you want a more dimensional piece (a vase was used for the orange horn style flower pictured above).

Get your plates all set out and design your flower before you start gluing. Once you know what you want your finished flower to look like start with the bottom piece and glue them on in layers, working up to the final center of your flower. We used the quick set epoxy glue. You will need to follow the instructions on the back of your glue, but essentially you mix small amounts of a two part glue in a discardable dish and then you are ready to use it. It dries in about 5 minutes, so you will need to go to work right after mixing. You can also use Gorilla Glue for this, but it dries more yellow

We started by putting a bead of glue around the bottom of the second largest plate and gluing it to the center of the gold cat plate pictured above. If using the epoxy glue method, allow to dry 5 minutes before starting next layer for best results.

We repeated that step for the rest of the layers as well, allowing to dry between layers.

Once you are finished with your flower you could use the same glue method to attach a plate hanger to the back of your flower, or get a plate stand to use to display it in. It's that easy, but makes a gift people will be talking about for a very long time. They are great dining room display, you could use pastel colors for a nursery gift, or do something in

green and red to use as a host/hostess gift for a Christmas party. I will be putting this one in my office, just for something pretty to look at.

Want to dress it up as a \$10 version? They sell gold charger plates at my local dollar store, or there were some very nice gold plated chargers I found at Ross for \$2 each. That would make a very fancy backing if you wanted to turn it into a grander display. Your still well under \$10 if you use an affordable charger. I have this rustic Italian style charger lying around my house (my little ones broke the matching ones....so I am stuck with nothing to do with this one). You could use it as a backing for a nice eclectic piece of art. When all was said and done, I liked the small flower, so I did not end up gluing it to the larger charger plate, but it's an option.

### **A Note from the Editor**

We did it! We made it through 2015! Now to look toward 2016 and all of those New Year resolutions! Me....I am not going to list or make any....that way I won't feel bad when I don't follow through!

The table beside my sofa is filled with yarn and crochet hooks, but it won't be long till the seed catalogs start arriving. I always pour over the catalogs, but don't seem to ever order anything. The real treat is seeing the plants arriving in the nurseries and garden centers. You know....instant gratification!

As usual, I hope to see some of you sending me contributions for the newsletter. Any, and all, contributions are appreciated!

I have one more important request. If you do read this newsletter and want it to continue, please hit reply and send me a 'Yep' or 'Nope' response....easy, peasy!

Until next time.....Happy New Year and Happy Gardening!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **JANUARY 21, 2016**

PHLMG BOARD MEETING 5PM  
PHLMG GENERAL MEETING 6PM  
WEBSTER PARISH EXTENSION OFFICE

#### **FEBRUARY 18, 2016**

PHLMG BOARD MEETING 5PM  
PHLMG GENERAL MEETING 6PM  
WEBSTER PARISH EXTENSION OFFICE

#### **FEBRUARY 27, 2016**

**BUDS & BLOOMS**  
9AM--NOON  
1<sup>ST</sup> UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#### **MARCH 17, 2016**

PHLMG BOARD MEETING 5PM  
PHLMG GENERAL MEETING 6PM  
WEBSTER PARISH EXTENSION OFFICE

#### **APRIL 21, 2016**

PHLMG BOARD MEETING 5PM  
PHLMG GENERAL MEETING 6PM  
WEBSTER PARISH EXTENSION OFFICE

#### **MAY 7-8, 2016**

LE TOUR DES JARDINS

#### **MAY 14, 2016**

TRAILS & TRELLISES

**DORCHEAT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
2016  
TREE SALE**

**Saturday, January 23, 2016 ~ 7:30 AM until 12:00 Noon  
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Office  
216 B Broadway Street, Minden, LA. 71055  
Telephone: 318-377-3950 Extension 3**

**\$2.00 Each**

- Baldcypress      River Birch
- Sawtooth Oak    Tulip Tree
- Chinquapin      White dogwood
- Sweet pecan      Weeping willow
- Red maple

**\$6.00**

- Delite Blueberry
- Bluebelle Blueberry
- Pink Flowering Dogwood

**\$8.00**

Bradford Pear

**\$3.00 Each**

- Southern Magnolia
- Muscadine
- Japanese Snowball
- Double Red Althea
- Double White Althea
- White Butterfly Bush
- Lavender Butterfly Bush

**\$4.00 Each**

- Crape Myrtle—Peppermint

**\$12.00 Each**

- Red Delicious Apple
- Golden Delicious Apple
- Burbank Plum
- Santa Rosa Plum
- Early Elberta Peach
- RedSkin Peach
- Bartlett Pear
- Moonglow Pear

Thank you for supporting our tree sale!!!