

Results from the 2021 Pepper Trial by Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture

A pepper trial was planted in April 2021 at the Christ the Good Shepherd (CGS) Church Garden in Precinct 4 and the AgriLife Extension Genoa Friendship Garden (GFG) in Precinct 2. Nine varieties of All-American Selection peppers were evaluated at CGS and 3 at GFG. The demonstration provides an opportunity to evaluate the performance of these plants and help educate the public, greenhouse producers and vegetable producers on plant performance.

Objective

- Demonstrate the importance of plant trials to the green industry and gardening public of Harris County.
- Confirm garden performance and production of AAS winners under Harris County conditions.
- Demonstrate that peppers can be produced under sustainable practices with minimal pesticide inputs.



Results from the 2021 Pepper Trial, cont.

by Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture

Table 1. Pepper varieties

Variety	Type
Just Sweet	Sweet
Mexican Sunrise*	Semi-hot
Escamillo	Sweet
Mad Hatter	Sweet
Red Ember*	Cayenne
Roulette*	Habanero
Aji Rico	Hybrid Hot
Cornito Giallo	Sweet
Chilli Pie	Hot

*Also planted at GFG

Materials and Methods

- CGS: 12 plants (3" potted liners) of the 9 varieties (Table 1) were planted in April 2021.
- GFG: 4 plants of 3 varieties in Table 1 were planted in April.
- Trials beds were amended with 3" compost and tilled to a depth of 4-6"
- Drip irrigation system was used to provide water during the trial.
- A 3" layer of native mulch was applied after planting.
- Once production started, peppers were harvested weekly, weighed and donated to local food pantries.
- In addition, varieties were evaluated for any pest or disease problems.
- Plants were harvested from May through September.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- The production was very good on all varieties with 'Roulette' being the largest producer at both sites.
- CGS plans to incorporate a few of these varieties into their planting plan for 2022.
- No disease or pest issues were identified during the trial.
- Mexican Sunrise was considered one of the tastiest varieties "It had a medium heat level with a sweet touch"

Results from the 2021 Pepper Trial, cont.

by Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture

Table 2. Production by variety at CGS

Variety	Weight (lbs)	Count
Just Sweet	41.50	909
Mexican Sunrise	74.25	1902
Escamillo	75.00	1115
Mad Hatter	41.25	1600
Red Ember	52.75	2379
Habanero Roulette	79.00	3708
Aji Rico	47.75	2387
Cornito Giallo	53.50	1199
Chilli Pie	25.25	477
Total	490.25	15,676

Table 3. Production by variety at GFG

Variety	Weight (lbs)
Red Ember	8.0
Mexican Sunrise	9.4
Roulette	13.9
Total	31.3



Fruit sample of variety 'Roulette'



Fruit sample of variety 'Mad Hatter'

CONCLUSIONS

Both growers and gardeners can be successful with the varieties that were evaluated. Whether you prefer sweet or hot, these peppers produce plenty of fruit with great flavor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Master Gardener Trials Team at the Genoa Friendship Garden and Christ the Good Shepherd Church.
- Industry Support: All-American Selections

Seasonal Herbs in Texas

by Brandi Keller, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture



Culinary Herbs

Annuals complete life cycle in one year.

Biennials complete life cycle in two years. Flowers in 2nd year.

Perennials grow year after year. Foliage may die back in winter.

Annuals

Basil
Cilantro
Dill
German Chamomile*
French tarragon*



*Fades in heat/humidity

Perennial

Fennel
Lemon balm
Lemon grass*
Mint
Onion chives
Mexican mint marigold



*Frost tender

**Fades in high humidity

Biennial

Caraway
Cilantro*
Parsley



*May act as annual

Evergreen Perennials

Bay
Garlic chives
Oregano
Rosemary
Thyme



Performs better
in cool season

Performs better
in warm season

Protect in high
heat

Parsley
Cilantro
Dill
Lovage
Onion chives
Salad burnet

Basil
Garlic Chives
Mint
Oregano
Rosemary

Lemon verbena
*Deciduous in winter

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Herbs can be planted in a dedicated garden, but they are so versatile that many are easily incorporated into landscapes for their height, texture, scent, and color.

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This graphic was created just for our newsletter to clear up some confusing details about herb lifespans, though it is not exhaustive. There are still many exceptions. Some annuals act as perennials and vice versa.



Mexican mint marigold
(*Tagetes lucida*)
A suitable year-round
replacement for
French tarragon

Resources:

[Herbs for Harris County](#)
[Herbs for Texas Landscapes](#)
[Spring Herbs](#)
[Fall Herbs](#)
[Crispy Lemon Basil Cookies](#)

Watch "Tomatoes for the Patio" [HERE](#).





If you have been keeping up with the current agriculture news in the US, you are aware of the uncertainty of many of the crops, fertilizers and livestock production that many producers are currently facing with their businesses. One of those affects both large scale and smaller back yard farmers who are in the poultry industry with the return of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).



This highly transmitted disease is rapidly spreading across the broiler belt of the US, with migratory waterfowl as the primary carrier. Texas is part of the Mississippi and Central Flyway migration of many of these birds which puts on of our states most important agriculture commodities at risk, that being commercial poultry.

Nationally, the poultry industry supports over 2 million U.S. jobs, providing \$121 billion in wages. Overall, the economic impact of poultry totaled more than \$576 billion, with \$41.9 billion in government revenue.

You might be surprised, but in Texas, broilers and eggs are the second largest agriculture commodity produced in the state. In 2017, the total market value of all poultry and eggs sold in Texas was \$2.991 billion according to USDA. Texas ranks sixth in the nation in broiler production, with most of the chicken farms in the state found in East and Central Texas.

WHAT IS BIOSECURITY?

Biosecurity is a set of practices you can use to avoid exposing animals to the disease.



Texas egg-laying farms and related companies employ more than 3,400 people and create an economic impact of \$1.134 billion. Overall, the poultry and egg sectors employ as many as 40,508 people across the state with an additional 121,249 related jobs.

Domestic fowl have no natural immunity to HPAI, and there is no treatment for the resulting disease. The virus is also extremely virulent and spreads in an enclosed aviary or commercial poultry house like wildfire. The result is simply death for the domestic birds. The only way to control further spread is to euthanize the entire flock after contamination of the disease. For the commercial poultry industry, this means the potential loss of millions of birds across the US.

Because HPAI is becoming more widespread, biosecurity must become an automatic part of life for those that oversee commercial or backyard flock. If you raise backyard poultry or in the industry, you must buy into biosecurity to protect your flocks and the flocks around them. You may think biosecurity measures may seem intrusive and of no real value, but where HPAI is concerned, the value is simply the continued operation of your flock being at stake.



Remember, there is no such thing as **TOO MUCH** biosecurity and there are always opportunities to improve and tighten the security around your flock, large or small. For more information on proper biosecurity measures at the farm level, I am including two links for additional resources and steps to follow.

For the English version <https://posc.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2012/08/Avian-Influenza-and-Biosecurity-Practices-PS006.pdf>

For the Spanish version https://posc.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2012/08/EPS006S_final2.pdf



We're taking the Home Grown Series on the road for a **LIVE EVENT!** Join us as we'll be offering topics to help make you a better gardener.

DATE/TIME: Sat, April 9, 2022 - 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

LOCATION: Trini Mendenhall Community Center
1414 Wirt Road, Houston, TX 77055

TICKETS: \$20

REGISTRATION: HGradshow2022.eventbrite.com

SUCCESSFUL HERB COMBINATION CONTAINERS

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture

Herbs are so versatile in combination with each other and annuals. Learn which ones grow well together based on culinary themes and water requirements.

WHAT TO GROW? RESULTS FROM HARRIS COUNTY PLANT TRIALS

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture

Find out which plants are the top performers in our flower and vegetable trials.

GARDENING 101

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources

Attendees will learn the importance and basics of fertilizers, location, and soil. Get the best out of your garden whether you're a beginner or experienced gardener.



The Home Grown Podcast!

The Home Grown podcast is presented by the Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR) Unit of the Harris County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office. The series provides information on urban agriculture / horticulture / gardening and ag literacy.

Episode #1

Meet the Harris County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agents: Paul Winski, Brandi Keller and Shannon Dietz.

Episode #2

A visit with Bill Barr - mentor, friend and plant propagator/plantsman extraordinaire.

Episode #3

Brandi Keller visits with Harris County Master Gardener, William Isbell.

Episode #4

Shannon talks with Janna Roberson, the executive director of Urban Harvest.

Episode #5

Paul talks with Robert Grove, the GM of the greenhouse operation at the Brookwood Community.

Episode #6

Brandi visits with Diana Foss, Urban Biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Episode #7

Shannon talks with Harris County Deputy Daniel Cline on this episode of the Home Grown Podcast.

Episode #8

Paul talks with Dr. Sonja Davis & Amanda Krippel (Harris County FCH Agents, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension)

Episode #9

Brandi sits down with Paul and presents those questions on seed propagation which we were not able to address during the Starting Plants From Seeds lecture.

Episode #10

Shannon interviews Kay Wolfe, County Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency for Harris, Waller and Montgomery Counties.

Episode #11

Paul interviews Rebecca Dubiski, project manager with Landscape Art Inc. Paul talks with Rebecca about her experience in the green industry and some of the opportunities working for a landscape construction company.

How do you access the podcast?

Click on the image below or go to <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1791415>. You can also search "Home Grown" wherever you find your podcasts.



Harris County
Extension Agents
Horticulture
Paul Winski
Brandi Keller
Ag/Natural Resources
Shannon Dietz

2022 HOME GROWN LECTURE SERIES

Lectures will be on the first Thursday of each month and include live demonstrations. Register now so you don't miss one!

Winter

STARTING PLANTS FROM SEEDS

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture

January 6, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

BASIC GRAFTING TECHNIQUES

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources

February 3, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

TOMATOES FOR THE PATIO

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent-Horticulture

March 3, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Summer

IDENTIFYING PEST & DISEASE ISSUES IN THE GARDEN

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture

July 7, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

SAFETY IN THE HOME GARDEN

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources

August 4, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

ALL ABOUT MINT

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent-Horticulture

September 1, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Spring

STARTING PLANTS FROM CUTTINGS

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture

April 7, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

HOME BUTCHER: MAKING BOUDIN

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources

May 5, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

10 REASONS FOR YELLOWING LEAVES

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent-Horticulture

June 2, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Fall

PROPER PRUNING IN THE LANDSCAPE

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture

October 6, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

HOLIDAY MEATS - NOT JUST TURKEY!

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources

November 3, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

PLANTABLE CHRISTMAS TREE ALTERNATIVES

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent-Horticulture

December 1, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Registration

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homegrown2022.eventbrite.com





HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS 2022 PLANT SALES

2 Locations
Including activities for families!

For more information go to: hcmga.tamu.edu/plant-sales/
Times for all sales - 9am-1pm or while supplies last.

SOUTHEAST SALE

***Genoa Friendship Garden
1210 Genoa Red Bluff
Houston 77034
Map for Directions***

April 16-18th
**Spring Vegetables &
Peppers Sale**

May 14-16th
Perennials & Herb Sale

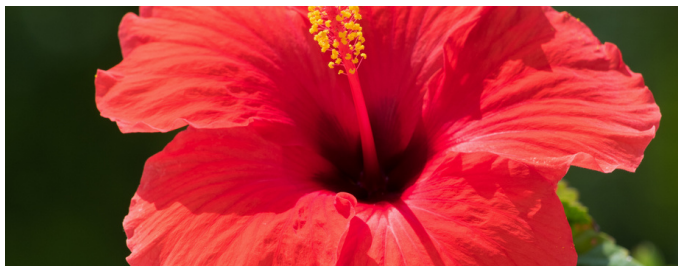


Online & in-person sales!

NORTHWEST SALE

***Weekley Park
19110 Longenbaugh
Cypress 77433
Map for Directions***

April 9th
**Spring Perennial,
Veggie & Herb Sale**
In-person only!



Contact Us

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Social Media/Websites

[Harris County Horticulture Facebook](#)

[Horticulture YouTube Channel](#)

[Harris County Master Gardeners Facebook](#)

[Harris County Ag & Natural Resources Facebook](#)

[Harris County AgriLife Website](#)

If you would like to **unsubscribe** from the Home Grown newsletter, please email Susan Hubert at susan.hubert@ag.tamu.edu



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.