

Cultivating School Gardens Conference (Virtual) by Brandi Keller, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture

Please share this low-cost training that is designed to help schools, homeschools, childcare centers, and community gardens grow a more successful garden!



Share this event on:



If you have donations suitable for door prizes,
[Contact Us.](#)

Keynote

- *Benefits of Plants for Youth Education and Well-Being*, by Dr. Charlie Hall, Professor, Ellison Chair in International Floriculture, Texas A&M University Department of Horticulture

Track 1:

- *Location & Design Options* - William Isbell, Harris County Master Gardener
- *Get Growing! Soil, Seeds & Plants* - Skip Richter, CEA-Hort, Brazos Co.
- *Vegetables for Fall & Spring Gardens* - Ginger Easton-Smith, CEA-ANR Aransas Co.
- *Just Add Water: Irrigation Considerations* - Boone Holladay, CEA-Hort, Fort Bend Co.
- *Good Guys in the Garden: Knowing and Attracting Beneficial Insects* - Paul Winski, CEA-Hort, Harris Co.

Track 2:

- *Building a Supportive Team: Partners & Partnerships* - Brandi Keller, CEA-Hort, Harris Co.
- *Student Management in the Garden* - Martha McLeod, Fulton Learning Center, Aransas Co.
- *Strategies for Funding Your Garden* - Randy Seagraves, Extension Program Specialist & Curriculum Director for JMG (Junior Master Gardener) Program
- *STEM & Literature in the Garden* - Lisa Whittlesey, Extension Program Specialist & International Program Director JMG Program
- *Success Stories from School Gardens* - A video compilation of 3 schools
- *Health & Wellness: The Nutrition Connection* - Caren Walton, Program Specialist JMG Program



CULTIVATING SCHOOL GARDENS CONFERENCE



📅 Wednesday, 20th July 2022

🕒 8.00 AM - 4.20 PM

**100%
ONLINE**

Workshop will provide
7 hours of Continuing
Professional Education
recognized by TEA

Fee: \$30
Register now at :

tx.ag/CSGC22Reg

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Cultivate learning and healthy youth in public, private, and home school gardens.



Preparation

Garden types, site, layout, planning, irrigation, soil, common challenges



Planting & Care

Vegetable varieties, seeds, transplants, timing, harvest, beneficial insects, and maintenance



Support

Volunteers, funding, partnerships, resources, Jr. Master Gardener Program, curricula



Success Stories

First hand accounts of gardens as outdoor classrooms for learning, health, and wellness



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Results From the 2021 Cool Season Flower Trials

by Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture

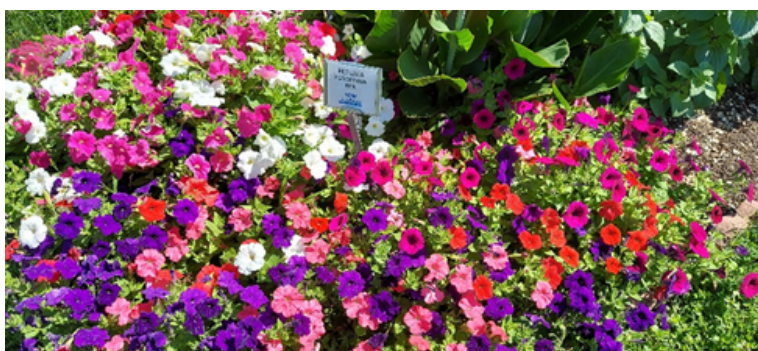
A cool season flower trial with petunias was established in March 2021 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Genoa Friendship Garden in Precinct 2 of Harris County. Four series of petunias were planted utilizing Earth-Kind® principles. The demonstration provides an opportunity to evaluate the performance of these plants and help educate the public and the landscape/greenhouse industry on plant performance.



Materials and Methods

- At least 6 - 3" potted plants of each annual variety were planted in week 9 of 2021.
- Trials beds were amended with 3" compost and tilled to a depth of 4-6"
- 8 varieties of petunia were selected. Two of the series, FlashForward and FotoFinish were recently introduced by Syngenta Flowers.

Series	# Cultivars
FotoFinish	3
FlashForward	3
Skybox	1
Damask	1



- Overhead irrigation system was used to provide water during the trial.
- A 3" layer of native mulch was applied after planting.
- Plants were evaluated every 2 weeks from April through May by a 2-person team of Master Gardeners that were trained on plant evaluation
- Plants are evaluated for uniformity – leaf color, shape, flower production, flower size, plant habit, overall appearance, resistance to disease and insects
- A scale of 1 – 10 is used: 10 being exceptional, 5 average and 1 an extremely poor performer

Results From the 2021 Cool Season Flower Trials, cont.

by Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- All the petunias in the trial performed extremely well. The FotoFinish is a new spreading series with larger flowers. The three entries had an overall average of 8.97. The FlashForward are also spreading in habit but have a smaller flower size. These three varieties had an average of 8.83.
- All petunias in the trial had very good pest and disease performance. No fungal issues were identified during the season.
- The Skybox Rose Star was used as a comparison to FotoFinish Rose Star and Damask Mix as a comparison to FotoFinish Mix. Both the Skybox and Damask have been on the market for some time.

CONCLUSIONS

The petunias exceeded my expectations, the color and flower production of these plants throughout the trial was exceptional.



Table 1. Plant scores for cool season trial

Variety	Score
Petunia FotoFinish White	9.2
Petunia FlashForward Lavender	9.1
Petunia FlashForward Mix	9
Petunia Skybox Rose Star	8.9
Petunia FotoFinish Rose Star	8.9
Petunia FotoFinish Mix	8.8
Petunia Damask Mix	8.5
Petunia FlashForward Pink	8.4

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Master Gardener Flower Trials Team at the Genoa Friendship Garden.
- Industry Support: Griffin Greenhouse Supply, Syngenta Flowers

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. Check out our latest episodes below.

Episode #13

Shannon interviews Mr. Steven Sisler, DAR (Disaster and Recovery) Agent with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Harris County. Mr. Sisler shares important and timely information about emergency preparedness and information for the 2022 Hurricane Season. Details on family evacuation plans as well as plans for your livestock, pets and homesite are all discussed, and they share where you can get additional information on these topics.

Episode #12

Brandi interviews Sherri Harrah, manager and hardline buyer for Plants For All Seasons Garden Center. They discuss an overview of the family-owned business, a few observations as a woman in horticulture, and touch on some current buying trends in the market today.

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.

Episode #10

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

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

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

homegrown2022.eventbrite.com



Contact Us

Paul Winski, County Extension Agent
Horticulture - Paul.Winski@ag.tamu.edu

Brandi Keller, County Extension Agent
Horticulture - Brandi.keller@ag.tamu.edu

Shannon Dietz - County Extension Agent
AG/NR - Shannon.Dietz@ag.tamu.edu

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.