

## New Additions to the Texas Superstar Program by Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture

The Texas Superstar program began as a regional program in the early 1980s and became a statewide effort in 1989. The name Texas Superstar was coined in 1997. To be designated a Texas Superstar, a plant must be beautiful and perform well for consumers and growers throughout the state.

Superstars must be easy to propagate, which ensures the plants are not only widely available throughout Texas but also reasonably priced. Let me introduce you to the 3 new introductions for 2022.



## Coming Up in Fall



- **2022 SE TEXAS URBAN AG & FARM SAFETY SUMMIT**  
September 22 & 23, 2022  
Details on page 4.  
[Register Here](#)

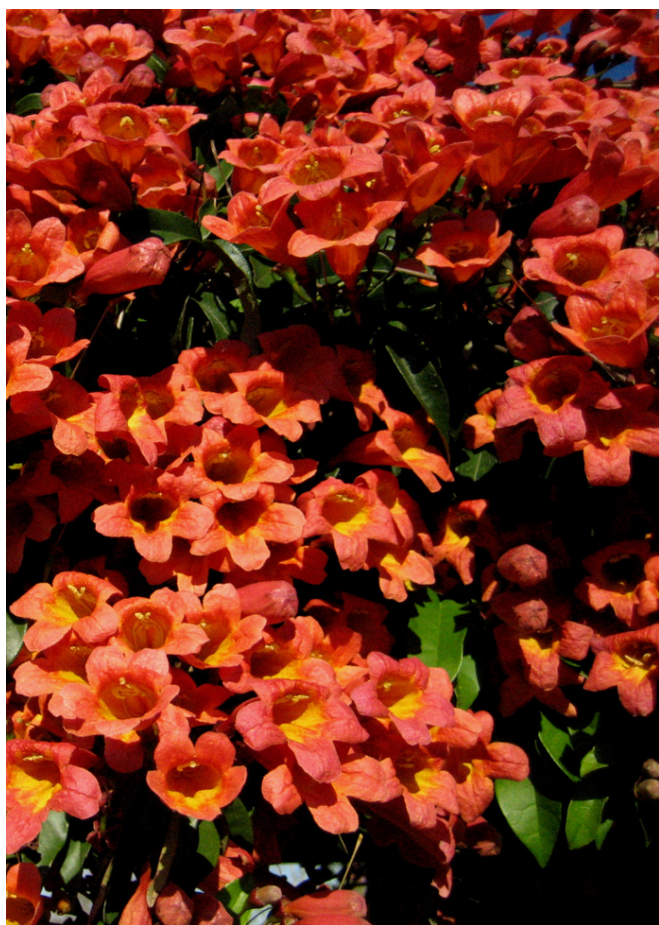


- **THE FUTURE OF URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT**  
September 30, 2022  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
[Register Here](#)



# New Additions to the Texas Superstar Program

by Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture



**Red Yucca** (*Hesperaloe parviflora*): a herbaceous shrubby perennial with evergreen foliage and a fountain-like growth habit. It produces flower spikes with pinkish-red or coral bell-shaped flowers from May through October. Red yucca prefers full sun and is drought and heat tolerant once established. Soils that are well-drained are required for success. Mature landscape size 3-5' tall x 2-4' wide. Pictured on page 1.

**Tangerine Beauty Crossvine** (*Bignonia capreolata* 'Tangerine Beauty'): a spring blooming evergreen vine. When in bloom, Tangerine Beauty produces 2" trumpet shaped buff-orange colored flowers that attract hummingbirds and other pollinators. The vine prefers full sun and thrives in many different soil conditions. Mature landscape size 15-20' tall & wide. Pictured at left.

**Valley Cat Tomato** is a medium-sized determinate plant that produces round red fruit typically 4" across. The variety has exceptional resistance to nematodes and other diseases including fusarium wilt, grey leaf spot and verticillium wilt. The plant can reach 4-5' in height and will require caging or staking for support. Valley Cat typically produces at least 20 tomatoes throughout the season. Pictured at right.



Find out more about Texas Superstar Plants at <https://texassuperstar.com/index.html>.

# All About Mint

by Brandi Keller, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture



Most mints prefer full sun to part shade (especially afternoon shade) and moist soil without having their feet wet. Too much water or overhead watering can promote diseases and pests. Keep it deadheaded to encourage tender leaves and stems with the best oil quality. If the intent is to dry leaves, then allow the flower stem to form, but not bloom, at harvest. To prevent problems of aggressiveness, plant in a pot or sunken container to limit runner and root growth that can get out of control. Remember to experiment with different ways to use it.

## ***Growing and Using Mint:***

Mint in the Garden

Mint Tea

Mint Sugar Snap Peas

Crispy Chickpeas with Fried Shallots and Cilantro-Mint Chutney



### **Mojito Mint**

*Mentha x villosa 'Mojito'*

Unlike most mints, this one originates from Cuba. It is a type of spearmint with larger leaves, a milder flavor, and a citrus undertone. Many consider this as the go-to variety for a Mojito cocktail. It can also be used in cooking, tea, salads, and more.



### **Corsican Mint**

*Mentha requienii*

Used as a ground cover, this mint has tiny, green, round leaves. In bloom, it can reach 4" tall, but often stays well under that. Spread can get up to 10" across. Its scent is released with stepped upon, however, it can still be used in drinks and foods

To watch for "All About Mint," Click [HERE](#).





# 2022 SE Texas Urban Ag & Farm Safety Summit

Shannon Dietz, Harris County Extension Agent, Ag & Natural Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Harris County is excited to offer the annual **SE Texas Urban Ag & Farm Safety Summit** again this year. The event will have an exciting new location in the Katy area on Thursday, Sept 22 & 23 at the Gerald D Young Agricultural Sciences Center, 5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd, Katy, TX 77493.

This year's event will be bigger and better than ever offering classes and educational demonstrations taught by AgriLife Extension Specialists along with Agriculture Industry leaders from around the state. Educational tracks will be offered in the following areas:



- Hay and Pasture Management
- Small Business Loans and Financial Information
- Equine and Beef Nutrition and Management
- Vegetable and Row Crop Production

In addition to the on-site classes being taught, two field trips will be offered. On Thursday, Sept 22, participants can sign up on Thursday field trip to **Coastal Prairie Conservancy** and on Friday, you have the option to visit the **International Goat Research Center at Prairie View A&M University**.

For the low cost of \$50 per person or \$80 per couple, attendees will be provided breakfast on both days along with a great lunch. Thursday's lunch is a Texas BBQ being prepared by the **International Grill Team with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™** with brisket and sausage and all the trimmings!

Keynote speakers include Dr. Larry Boleman, retired AgriLife administrator, who will be sharing information on the cattle industry here in Texas and on Friday, Mrs. Audra Smith, Attorney, will be sharing legal expertise on land and mineral rights, eminent domain, and wills and estates. You won't want to miss these two great speakers.

Lastly, a tradeshow with over 40 businesses will be on hand to promote their products, answer questions, and help plan your successful farm, ranch, or agribusiness.

For a complete agenda with classes and times, or to get information on hotel rooms if you are traveling, visit <https://www.setxurbanagfarm.com/>.

# Southeast Texas Urban Ag & Farm Safety Summit

Gerald D Young Agriculture Sciences Center  
5801 Katy Hockley Cut Off Rd | Katy, TX | 77493

September 22-23, 2022

## 5 THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS >>>

Join the Harris County Ag & Natural Resources Committee for the annual multi-county educational event focusing on:

- Hay & Pasture Management
- Beef and Equine Science
- Small Business Loans & Opportunities
- Vegetable & Row Crop Production

Click here to [REGISTER NOW!](#)  
Individual Tickets \$50, Couples \$80



TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION



1

### FIVE PESTICIDE CEUS

Laws & Regs, Drift, IPM & 2  
General Classes Offered  
(pending TDA approval)

2

### THURSDAY BBQ LUNCH

Come hungry for brisket and  
sides provided by Houston  
Livestock Show & Rodeo™

3

### TRADE SHOW

More than 40 vendors from  
agricultural industries, providing  
info for your home & farm needs

4

### FIELD TRIPS

Attendees can choose to visit The  
Coastal Prairie Conservancy and/or  
PVAMU's International Goat  
Research Center

5

### GAP CLASS

Breaking into Markets with  
GroupGAP - Resources for Small  
Specialty Crop Growers

REGISTER HERE: [HTTPS://SETXURBANAGSUMMIT.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://setxurbanagsummit.eventbrite.com)

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

# 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 #15

Brandi interviews Bryan Kratish, Manager of Outreach Services with the Harris County Public Library System. They discuss the partnership with the Master Gardener Green Thumb Gardening Series and the library system's creative programming to reach more county residents.

## Episode #14

On this episode, Paul talks with Lauren Kirchner, the director of sales & marketing at Spring Creek Growers in Waller, Texas. Paul & Lauren talk about her family's greenhouse operation and the current trends that she is seeing in the industry.

## 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.

## 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 #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





# THE FUTURE OF URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

September 30, 2022

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

## University of Houston-Downtown

(UHD Science & Technology Building)

315 N. Main Street Houston TX 77002

**COST: GENERAL \$50.00 | STUDENT - \$ 25.00**

**Early-Bird Registration - Save \$ 10.00 (Register by 8/15)**



## Agenda



**Gardening for Health – Dr. Joe Novak**, Faculty Lecturer, Director of the Betty and Jacob Friedman Holistic Garden Rice University



**Certified Organic: What is it and its value – Bob Whitney**, Regents Fellow & Extension Organic Program Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center.



**Enhancing the Purpose of Food – Dr. Patrick Stover**, Institute Director, Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture Texas A&M AgriLife Research | Texas A&M University System



**Wicked Problems Lunch Topics** – each table at lunch will informally discuss an urban food topic



### Innovation in Urban Ag Panel

- **Brenda Anderson Koch** - VegOut! Farms, Owner/Operator
- **Sara Wilson** - Three Sister Farms, Owner
- **Cath Conlon** - Blackwood Educational Land Institute/The SKYFARM at Post Houston, CEO and Founder

**REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://FUFSS2022.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://fufss2022.eventbrite.com)**

**Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent - Horticulture**

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# 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](https://homegrown2022.eventbrite.com)





# 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](mailto: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.*