GARDENING AND 
LANDSCAPING GUIDE
Summer Edition

stewart

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About This Guide

It’s time to get inspired and get your hands dirty outside. One of the most affirming and enjoyable things about gardening is the fact that we keep getting another chance to get it right. If a planting fails, just pull it up and replant. Each season is a new chance to learn, experiment and gain expertise. With the right knowledge and seeds, anyone can successfully put a green thumb to work. Use this summer edition guide to assist in achieving your warm-season gardening goals.

“Gardeners are the world’s premier optimists, as every new season is the start of the best ever!”
- Texas Gardener, February 2003
10 Tips for a Successful Texas Garden and Landscape

Follow these tips and tricks this season to ensure a healthy and lovely garden and landscape:

1. Planning, Planning, Planning
Develop a garden plan for the coming season, both short and longer term. Know what it is you want to do before digging – what goes where and why.

2. Prepare Your Soil – Build On a Good Foundation
Soil is the foundation of any garden. Creating a hospitable home by matching the plant to the soil is the first essential step in successful landscapes and gardens. To find out the pH level and which nutrients your soil might be lacking, consider a soil test. Soil testing kits can be purchased from your local nursery.

There are two basic ways to improve your soil: buy/make compost to add to the soil you have or buy a soil mix. Build up your soil with a few inches of compost and whatever nutrients it may be lacking before planting.

3. Ensure Good Drainage
In Central Texas, it seems to be feast or famine when it comes to rainfall. Plant roots need oxygen and hate to sit in waterlogged soil. Creating raised beds with drains in garden borders can ensure good drainage when the rain keeps coming. Also, creating an underground gravel soakway or French drain system are easy “do-it-yourself” projects that will lead the water outside of your soaked areas.

4. Select the Right Sun Spots for Planting
Matching the right sun-exposed spots for planting with your garden variety is very important. Some plants worship the sun more than others. For example, fruit-bearing vegetables, like tomatoes and peppers, require at least six hours of sun a day, while leafy vegetables, like lettuce or spinach, can tolerate moderate shade. Always take the instructions on your seed packets and transplant packages seriously. Those instructions will almost always give guidance on what amount of light is needed for your plants to grow.

5. Timing is Everything
For everything there is a season. This is very true for gardening, since in most cases, there is a small window of time to plant that will ensure successful growth. See the Gardening Tips by Month section on pages 4-6 to see what to plant and when during the winter season.

6. Plant What Works in Texas
Plant your garden realistically with seeds and transplants based on plant varieties that are proven to work. Native plants belong here; they thrive with minimal care and provide habitat for local wildlife. A list of native and adaptable plants is available on page 7.

Pay attention to Hardiness Zones, which refers to defined geographic regions that can support specific plants, flowers and trees. The zones define a minimum range of temperatures that a plant or tree can survive safely in that zone. The most commonly used Hardiness Zones have been defined by the USDA. Check out the Texas Hardiness Zone interactive map at plantmaps.com/interactive-texas-usda-plant-zone-hardiness-map.php

7. Your Plants Have to Eat Too
Make a fertilizing schedule: vegetables and flowering annuals monthly, trees and shrubs twice a year, lawns every 10-12 weeks. Weeds will invade a garden that is suffering from lack of moisture. A thorough, deep soaking of the lawn every week is better than frequent, light watering.

8. Watch Out for Invasions!
Keep an eye on plants for evidence of insect damage and moisture. Pest and disease problems left to reach epidemic levels are much more difficult to control; by the time you do something, there may not be much crop left to save. For more information about pest and weed control options, consult your local nursery for products and advice.

9. Resist the Urge to Overplant
Inspiration can easily take us by storm, but resist the urge to overplant and bite off more than you can chew. When planting your new garden, consider what you actually have time to maintain. Most plants put in the ground or even in a pot will require some amount of labor on your part.

10. The More You Know, the More You’ll Grow
Learn about the plants you grow. The more you learn, the more economical and enjoyable gardening will become. Consider taking the Master Gardener class in your county.
Summer is when you really appreciate your garden and by June, your garden should be in full swing. Now your job is to keep your plants and flowers looking their best and enjoy what you’ve grown. You will start to harvest all of those veggies you planted in the spring: enjoy the fruits of your labor!

- Hot, dry summer weather is extremely critical for certain plants. Provide supplemental water for plants such as Hydrangeas, Coleus, Caladium, Geranium, Dahlia, Azalea and Camellia.

- Mulch all bare soil areas. Use three inches of mulch wherever possible to get the benefits of weed suppression and moisture retention.

- Spider mites are especially troublesome during the hot summer months. Continue to check for all summer insects and diseases.

- Be on the lookout for powdery mildew on Crepe Myrtle, Zinnia, Photinia, Euonymus and many other plants.

- This is a great time to transplant grown Bearded Irises. They may be transplanted anytime from mid-June until late summer.

- To keep hanging baskets and container plants looking attractive in summer heat, soak the baskets in a tub of water every few days in addition to the regular daily watering and fertilizing. Never apply fertilizer to dry plants.

- To encourage new growth of aging annuals such as Petunias, be sure to fertilize, water and prune them when they become tall and leggy.

- Harvest vegetables often to ensure continual production.

- Mow your lawn high to avoid moisture loss. Also, check your lawn mower blade. Dull blades can cause a brownish discoloration of the stems and leaves shortly after cutting. With the arrival of hot weather, you may want to raise the mower blade to the highest setting.

**What to Plant in June**

**Annual Flower/Ornamental Plants**
- Ageratum, Amaranthus, Balsam, Begonia, Blue Daze, Celosia, Coleus, Copper Plant, Dusty Miller, Gazania, Geranium, Gomphrena, Impatiens, Marigold, Mexican Heather, Nierembergia, Penta, Periwinkle, Portulaca, Purslane, Torenia and Zinnia

**Annual Flower/Ornamental Seeds**
- Castor Bean, Celosia, Coleus, Cypress Vine, Four O’clocks, Gomphrena, Gourds, Hyacinth Bean Vine, Impatiens, Marigold, Moonflower Vine, Morning Glory Vine, Periwinkle, Sunflower, Tithonia and Zinnia

**Fruit and Vegetable Plants**
- Black-eyed Peas, Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Malabar Spinach, New Zealand Spinach, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes, Watermelon and Winter Squash

**Fruit and Vegetable Seeds**
- Black-eyed Peas, Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Malabar Spinach, New Zealand Spinach, Okra, Pumpkin, Watermelon and Winter Squash

**Herb Seeds**
- Anise, Basil, Bay, Catnip, Cumin, Germander, Horehound, Lamb’s Ear, Lavender, Oregano, Perilla, Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Southernwood, Summer Savory, Tansy, Tarragon, Thyme and Winter Savory

**Perennial Plants**
- Black-eyed Susan, Butterfly Weed, Copper Canyon Daisy, Cupheas, Coreopsis, Daylily, Echinacea, Eupatoriums, Four-nerve Daisy, Frog Fruit, Gayfeather, Goldenrod, Horse Herb, Kniphofia, Lamb’s Ear, Lantana, Ox-eye Daisy, Plumbago, Ruellias, Salvias, Sedum and Shasta Daisy
By July, we are entering our least productive season for planting here in Central Texas. Accordingly, the planting recommendations are slim this month, so focus on your summer vegetables and planning your fall season garden.

- Use the 4th of July holiday as your reminder to plant pumpkins in order to get nice, big Jack o’ Lanterns in time for Halloween.
- Keep a close check on recently planted landscape plants. Inadequate root systems and drought can be damaging.
- Watch for and apply early control to prevent the buildup and spread of summer insects and disease.
- Check Azaleas and Camellias for iron chlorosis (pale green leaves, darker green veins). If necessary, use copperas or iron chelate to correct iron deficiency.

- Early-blooming mums can take one last pinch by mid-July. Those blooming late in the fall can be given one additional pinch at the end of July.
- Check Junipers and Marigolds for red spider mite. Hold a sheet of white paper below a branch with brown, discolored foliage and tap the branch sharply. If the dirt specks start to move, you can be almost certain you have spider mites.
- Divide spring and early summer perennials including Daffodils, Daylilies, Iris, etc., and replant the best clumps. Discard the diseased or damaged material and share any surplus with friends.
- Beat the heat by doing some low-energy garden decorating like pruning off dead limbs. Add yard art such as a birdbath or feeder, a small disappearing fountain or perhaps even a pink flamingo.
- Lawn maintenance tip for summer heat: only use sprinklers that spray the least amount of water into the air. This will help lessen the amount of evaporation.

What to Plant in July

**Annual Flower/Ornamental Seeds**
Cosmos, Gourds and Morning Glory

**Annual Flower/Ornamental Plants**
Blue Daze, Gazania, Geranium, Gomphrena, Marigolds, Penwinkle, Portulaca, Purslane and Zinnia

**Fruit and Vegetable Plants**
Eggplant, Peppers and Tomatoes

**Fruit and Vegetable Seeds**
Amaranth, Black-eyed Peas, Cantaloupe, Corn, Cucumbers, Malabar Spinach, New Zealand Spinach, Okra, Pumpkin, Summer Squash, Watermelon and Winter Squash

**Grasses**
Bamboo Muhly, Big Muhly, Gulf Coast Muhly, Inland Sea Oats, Maiden Grass, Mexican Feather Grass, Purple Fountain Grass, Switchgrass and Weeping Muhly

**Herb Plants**
Basil, Oregano, Rosemary and Thyme

**Perennial Plants**
Black-eyed Susan, Butterfly Weed, Copper Canyon Daisy, Cupheas, Coreopsis, Daylily, Eupatoriums, Four-Nerve Daisy, Goldenrod, Kniphofia, Lamb’s Ear, Lantana, Ox-eye Daisy, Plumbago, Ruellias, Salvias and Shasta Daisy
The heat is on, but don’t worry; your garden is harder than you think. There are plenty of gardening tasks for August that will keep your flower and vegetable gardens healthy, as well as opportunities to get a head start on next year’s garden.

- Water is the best fertilizer during this time of the year. Despite higher water bills, remember to soak frequently, thoroughly and deeply.

- Make a second application of chinch bug control early this month, if needed.

- Start your own compost pile and be ready to collect the leaves as they drop this fall season. Speed up decomposition by keeping the pile moist.

- Don’t forget to mulch! If you haven’t done so already, be sure all bare soil is covered with mulch or compost with mulch on top. Avoid putting mulch or compost onto plant stems. Use about three inches total wherever possible. A layer of mulch will help prevent the germination of many weed seeds, reducing the need for cultivation or herbicides. Mulches also help moderate the soil temperature and retain moisture during dry weather, reducing the need for watering.

What to Plant in August

Annual Flower/Ornamental Seeds
Calendula, California Poppy, Cornflower, Larkspur and Poppy

Annual Flower/Ornamental Plants
Blue Daze, Celosias (Cockscomb or Plume) and Zinnia

Herb Plants
Mexican Mint Marigold, Mints, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage and Wormwood (Artemesia)

Perennial Plants
Ornamental Grasses and Sedum

Vegetable Plants
Malabar Spinach, New Zealand Spinach, Okra, Summer Squash and Winter Squash

Vegetable Seeds
Plant the following vegetable seeds in early August only: Black-eyed Peas, Malabar Spinach, New Zealand Spinach, Okra and Winter Squash.

The following vegetable seeds can be planted any time in August: Beans, Corn, Cucumber, Garlic, Potatoes, Shallot and Summer Squash.

Plant these vegetable seeds in pots or flats: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Chard, Chinese Cabbage, Fennel and Kale. In late August, you may add Collards, Endive, Head and Leaf Lettuce and Mustard. Keep these cool. Give them bright sun, but perhaps some shade from the hottest afternoon sun. An awning made of 30% shade cloth is a great way to keep them protected.
Texas Native and Adaptive Plants

Those that thrive and survive in Central Texas

*The plant is native to Texas.

**Trees**

**Yuccas/Agaves/Succulents**
Agave (Blue, Century Plant*, Parry's*, Queen Victoria*, Squid), Basket Grass*, Cactus (Prickly Pear)*, Nolina*, Sotol*, Yucca (Giant, Paleleaf*, Red*, Softleaf, Spanish*, Twistleaf*)

**Shrubs**

**Ornamental Grasses**
Fountain Grass, Inland Sea Oats*, Little Bluestem*, Mexican Feathergrass*, Muhly (Bamboo, Big*, Deer*, Gulf*, Pine*)

**Vines**

**Bulbs**
Amaryllis, Bearded Iris, Chinese Ground Orchid, Daffodils, Lilies (Cooper's,Chirum, Oxblood/Schoolhouse, Spider, Oxalis, Rainlilies

**Ground Cover**
Aztec Grass, Dalea, Greg*, Frogfruit*, Germander, Horseherb, Jasmine, Leadwort Plumbago, Liriope, Monkey Grass, Mountain Pea, Myoporum, Oregano, Pigeonberry*, Purple, Heart, Santolina, Sedge (Cherokee, Meadow, Texas)*, Sedum*, Silver Ponyfoot*, Violet*, Wooly Sternodia*

**Water Plants**

**Perennials**
Local Gardening Clubs and Organizations

Get together with fellow gardeners who share your interest. These organizations provide opportunities for learning, volunteering, garden viewing and general socializing. Visit the organizations’ websites for membership, meeting and event details.

- **American Botanical Council**
  abc.herbalgram.org

- **Anderson Mill Garden Club**
  13974 FM-2769, Volente, 78641
  512.258.2613 | andersonmillgardenclub.com

- **Austin Bonsai Society**
  austinbonsaisociety.com

- **Austin Butterfly Forum**
  austinbutterflies.org

- **Austin Cactus & Succulent Society**
  austincss.com

- **Austin Daylily Society**
  austindaylily.org

- **Austin Herb Society**
  austinherbsoociety.org

- **Austin Organic Gardeners**
  austinorganicgardeners.org

- **Austin Pond Society**
  austinpondsociety.org

- **Austin Rose Society**
  austinrosesociety.org

- **First Austin African Violet Society**
  faavs.org

- **Garden Club of Austin**
  thegardenclubofaustin.org

- **Georgetown Garden Club**
  georgetowngardenclub.org

- **Heart O’ Texas Orchid Society**
  hotos.org

- **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**
  wildflower.org

- **Liberty Hill Garden Club**
  libertyhillgardenclub.org

- **Native Plant Society of Texas; Austin Chapter**
  npsot.org/wp/austin

- **Rock Rock Area Garden Club**
  roundrocktexas.gov

- **Texas Bamboo Society**
  bamboocentral.net

- **Travis County Master Gardener Assoc.**
  tcmastergardeners.org

- **Useful Wild Plants**
  usefulwildplants.org

- **Violet Crown Garden Club**
  violetcrowngardenclub.org

- **Wild Basin Creative Research Center**
  stedwards.edu

- **Wimberley Garden Club**
  wimberleygardenclub.org

- **Zilker Botanical Gardens**
  zilkergarden.org
Community Gardens

If you’d like to grow your own food, but don’t have adequate space or sunlight, consider planting in a community garden. Community gardens are vibrant, productive gathering places for neighbors to grow food and learn together.

For more information visit: communitygardensvaustin.org

**Public Viewing Gardens**

The Central Texas area has plenty of public green spots where you can enjoy a garden experience without doing the work yourself.

**Lady Bird Johnson Wilflower Center**
4801 La Crosse Ave.
Austin, 78739
512.232.0100
wildflower.org

**Zilker Botanical Gardens**
2220 Barton Springs Rd.
Austin, 78704
512.477.8672
zilker.org

**UMLAUF Sculpture Garden & Museum**
605 Robert E. Lee Rd.
Austin, 78704
512.445.5582
umlaufsculpture.org

**Jade Gardens**
12404 RR 12
Wimberley, 78676
512.847.2514
bonsaixhibitexas.com

**Hays County**

San Marcos Community Garden
624 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos, 78666
512.431.2278 or 915.494.0545

**Travis County**

Adelphi Acre Community Garden
3701 ½ Adelphi Ln., Austin, 78759
512.762.5409 | adelphiacre.org

Alamo Community Garden
2101 Alamo St., Austin, 78722
512.762.5409
alamocommunitygarden.weebly.com

Blackshear Neighborhood Garden
2001 E. 9th St., Austin, 78702
512.762.5409

Cherry Creek Community Garden
5618 Baylon Ln., Austin, 78745
cherrycreekgarden.com

Clarksville Community Garden
1705 Waterson Ave., Austin, 78703
512.762.5409

Cumberland Community Garden
412 Cumberland Rd., Austin, 78704
512.669.8475

Deep Eddy Community Garden
300 Atlanta St., Austin, 78703
512.762.5409

Emerald Wood Community Garden
611 Emerald Wood Dr., Austin, 78745
512.351.5576
facebook.com/emeraldwoodcg

Festival Beach Community Garden
35 Waller St., Austin, 78702
512.567.0740 | festivalbeachgarden.org

Good Soil Community Garden
1190 Chicon St., Austin, 78702
512.762.5409

Homewood Heights Community Garden
2604 Sol Wilson Ave., Austin, 78702
512.236.0074
homewoodheightsgarden.blogspot.com

Hyde Park Community Garden
610 E. 45th St., Austin, 78751
512.236.0074

Lamplight Community Garden
12444 Lamplight Village Ave.
Austin, 78758
703.328.7519 | lamplightgarden.org

New Day Community Garden
2215 E.M. Franklin Ave., Austin, 78723
ewdaycommunitygarden.org

North Austin Community Garden
1000 W. Rundberg Ln., Austin, 78758
512.973.9622

Patterson Park Community Garden
4200 Brookview Rd., Austin, 78722
512.913.9868 | bit.ly/2GIGCFD

Pecan Street Community Garden
15500 Sun Light Near Way
Pflugerville, 78660
512.990.6360 | parks.pflugervilletx.gov

Pioneer Farms Community Garden
10621 Pioneer Farms Dr., Austin, 78754
pioneerfarms.org

Reagan High School Community Garden
7104 Berkman Dr., Austin, 78752
512.841.2790

South Austin Community Garden
5th Street and Cumberland Road
Austin, 78704
main.org/sacgarden/index.html

St. David’s Foundation Community Garden
2907 E. MLK Blvd., Austin, 78702
512.920.3271 | bit.ly/2GH3ntq

Sunshine Community Garden
4814 Sunshine Dr., Austin, 78756
512.458.2009
sunshinecommunitygardens.org

Windsor Park Community Garden
5817 Westminster Dr., Austin, 78723
wpgardeners@gmail.com

Williamson County

Heritage Community Garden
2100 Hutto Rd., Georgetown, 78626
512.248.3225
heritagecommunitygarden.com

Milburn Community Garden
1901 Sun Chase Blvd., Cedar Park, 78613
512.401.5500 | bit.ly/2U9pDPZ

Unity Park Community Garden
2746 Gattis School Rd., Round Rock, 78664
512.705.1813 | bit.ly/2NtiwiJ

Veterans Memorial Community Garden
2525 W. New Hope Dr., Cedar Park, 78613
512.401.5500 | bit.ly/2U9pDPZ
Barton Springs Nursery
3601 Bee Caves Rd.
Austin, 78746
512.328.6655
bartonspringsnursery.net

Bloom Nursery
333 W. Hwy. 290
Dripping Springs, 78620
512.894.0001

Breed & Co. – Central
718 W. 29th St.
Austin, 78705
512.474.6679
shop.breedandco.com

Breed & Co – Westlake
3663 Bee Caves Rd.
Austin, 78746
512.328.3960
shop.breedandco.com

Countryside Nursery
13292 Pond Springs Rd.
Austin, 78729
512.249.0100
countrysaidaustin.com

Farmer’s Nursery Inc.
1305 Leander Dr.
Leander, 78641
512.259.0088
farmersnursery.com

Green ‘n Growing
601 W. Pecan St.
Pflugerville, 78660
512.251.3262
greenngrowing.com

Hill Country Water Gardens
1407 N. Bell Blvd.
Cedar Park, 78613
512.260.5050
hillcountrywatergardens.com

Homeworks Landscape Materials
101 Rebel Dr., Kyle, 78640
512.268.8328
homedeapot.com

It’s About Thyme
11726 Manchaca Rd.
Austin, 78748
512.280.1192
itsaboutthyme.com

King Feed
Garden & Hardware
14210 Ranch Rd. 12 N.
Wimberley, 78676
512.847.2618
kingfeedandhardware.com

Lakeway Garden Center, Inc.
21215 Hwy. 71 W.
Spicewood, 78669
512.263.5275
backyard-gardens.com

Landmark Nurseries
1510 Royston Ln.
Round Rock, 78664
512.251.9238
landmarknurseries.net

Lowe’s
Check website for multiple Central Texas locations
lowes.com

Moon Valley Nurseries
12881 Pond Springs Rd.
Austin, 78729
512.893.7811
moonvalleynurseries.com

The Natural Gardener
8648 Old Bee Caves Rd.
Austin, 78735
512.288.6113
naturalgardeneraustin.com

Organics By Gosh
13602 FM 969
Austin, 78724
512.276.1211
organicsbygosh.com

Round Rock Gardens
901 Sam Bass Rd.
Round Rock, 78681
512.255.3353
roundrockgardens.com

Shoal Creek Nursery
2710 Hancock Dr.
Austin, 78731
512.458.5909
shoalcreeknursery.com

Sledd Nursery
1211 W. Lynn St.
Austin, 78703
512.478.9977
sleddnursery.com

Snooper’s Nursery
3602 E. Old Settlers Blvd.
Round Rock, 78665
512.310.2614
snoopers-nursery.com

Sol’stice Garden Expressions
900 Hwy. 290 W.
Dripping Springs, 78620
512.569.0175
solsticegardens.com

Ted’s Trees
1118 Tillery St., Austin, 78702
512.928.8733
tedstrees.com

Walmart Superstores
Check website for multiple Central Texas locations
walmart.com

Whittlesey Landscape Supply – North
3219 S. IH. 35
Round Rock, 78664
(512) 989-ROCK
989rock.com

Whittlesey Landscape Supply – South
629 Dalton Ln., Austin, 78742
512.385.0732
989rock.com

Festivals and Special Events

With the abundance of warm weather and gardening enthusiasts in Austin, you are sure to find a gardening event worthy of attendance all year round.

June 7-9
15th Annual Blanco Lavender Festival
Blanco, 78606
blancolavenderfest.com

July 2 and August 6, 6-8 p.m.
UMLAUF After Dark
UMLAUF Sculpture Garden & Museum
605 Azie Morton Rd., Austin, 78704
umlaufsculpture.org

August 23-25
24th Annual Austin Fall Home & Garden Show
Austin Convention Center
500 E. Cesar Chavez St., Austin, 78701
austinfoallhomeandgardenshow.com
Need hands-on help setting up your garden?

These companies specialize in the design, installation and maintenance of home-scale gardens. These guys are definitely not “mow and blow” operations.

- **Backyard Farms**
  512.992.9200
  backyardfarmsaustin.com

- **Fertile Ground Organic Gardens**
  512.340.0432
  fertilegroundgardens.com

- **Food Is Free**
  foodisfreeproject.org

- **Resolution Gardens**
  512.743.4245
  resolutiongardens.com