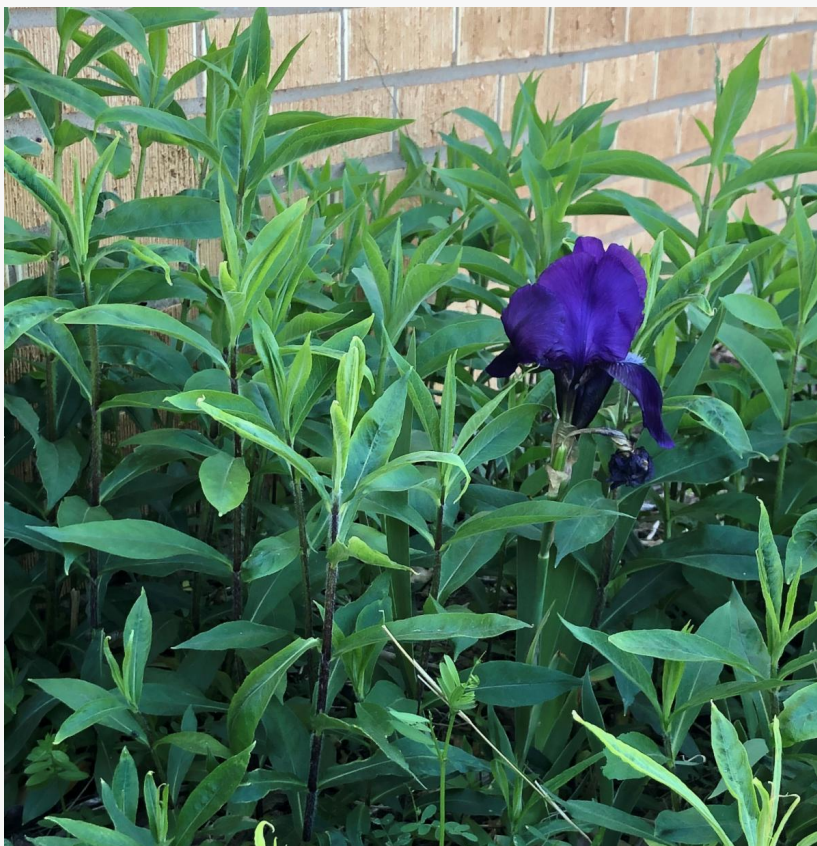




April 2021

# THE NEW HORT THYMES

Serving Cleveland County with the most up to date gardening, lawn, landscaping, and horticulture information.



## Spring Is Coming!

The most wonderful time of the year for gardeners is just around the corner - spring! But be cautious, the anticipation of warm days uninterrupted by freezes can turn this time of year into a waiting game. April 15th is regarded as the average last frost date for our area, but we've had freezes as late as May 3rd. It is critical to pay attention to the weather this time of year. Don't plant too early! You don't have to buy all of your plants twice.

We're still observing the damage from the February snow storm. Continue waiting to do any corrective pruning until the end of the month. As things become consistently warm, you may notice swelling buds and new growth.

Patience is definitely the theme for this April.

## Cleveland County Extension Office

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### Address

601 E Robinson St  
Norman, OK 73071

### Phone

405-321-4774

### Email

courtney.dekalb@okstate.edu

### Website

[www.oces.okstate.edu/cleveland](http://www.oces.okstate.edu/cleveland)

### Social Media

Facebook:

[/clevelandcountyhort](https://www.facebook.com/clevelandcountyhort)

Instagram:

[@clevelandcountyhorticulture](https://www.instagram.com/clevelandcountyhorticulture)



In this issue...

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**Landscape Design**

**Watersheds**

**Plant of the Month**

**Garden Tips**

**Seasonal Eats**

**Upcoming Events**

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Volume 4 | Issue 3

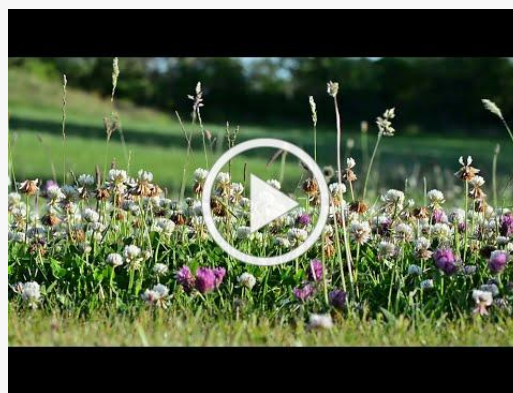
## Elements of Landscape Design

There are many benefits to landscaping, including aesthetics, screening, providing a habitat for wildlife, and creating a functional green space. Landscapes add value to our homes, lives, and

the world around us. To create an effective and pleasant landscape, it is important to understand the elements of landscape design. The elements of design include mass, line, form, texture, and color. Check out these educational videos we did with the Pioneer Library System to learn more!

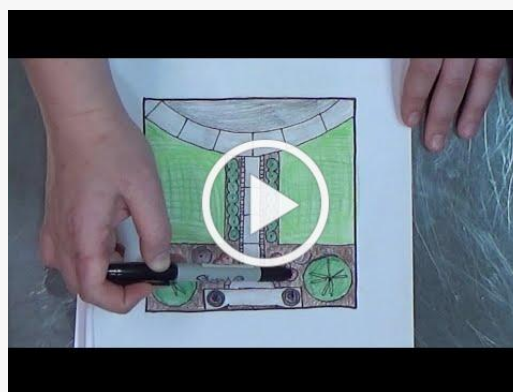
## Landscape Design: Benefits and Mass

Let's kick off your season of gardening! Join the Cleveland County OSU Extension Office for pro tips to create, plan, and cultivate your outdoor spaces. In this video, we share the benefits of planning your landscape, and provide an easy intro to incorporating one element of design - mass.



## Landscape Design: Line and Form

Let's kick off your season of gardening! Join the Cleveland County OSU Extension Office for pro tips to create, plan, and cultivate your outdoor spaces. In this video, we share two elements of design - line and form - and provide examples of how to easily include these in your landscape.



## Landscape Design: Texture and Color

Let's kick off your season of gardening! Join the Cleveland County OSU Extension Office for pro tips to create, plan, and cultivate your outdoor spaces. In this video, we discuss two elements of design - texture and color - and note how these can enhance features of the landscape.



Find additional resources on landscape design through Libby and Hoopla with [Pioneer Library System](#)

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## Lake Thunderbird Watershed Alliance





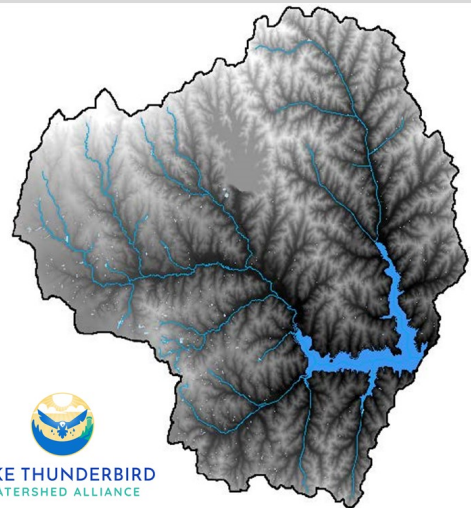
The Lake Thunderbird Watershed Alliance was formed in 2020 to work collaboratively with residents, communities, and other stakeholders to protect the water quality and quantity of Lake Thunderbird. The Lake Thunderbird Watershed Alliance will also serve as a clearinghouse for information about Lake Thunderbird including implementation of projects, research, and outreach materials.

Lake Thunderbird is important to many people for a variety of reasons. **Right now, the alliance needs your input! Fill out the survey below. The alliance will use responses to tailor education and research efforts.** The interactive site also includes information on the watershed, different ways landowners can help, and an interactive map to provide comments on areas of concern.

LTWA Community Engagement  
Platform



LAKE THUNDERBIRD  
WATERSHED ALLIANCE



LAKE THUNDERBIRD  
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

## April Plant of the Month



## Diabolo® Ninebark

A dark, maroon shrub to add some drama to your landscape

Diabolo® is a cultivar of ninebark prized for its deep maroon foliage, which contrasts nicely with the clusters of white flowers. It is also a great companion plant for gold or chartreuse-leaved plants. This deciduous shrub grows from 8' high and wide, but can rejuvenated by pruning it to the ground in winter. Red fruit extends the ninebark's show into the fall and exfoliating bark adds winter interest. Diabolo® is hardy and durable shrub that can be used as a screen, for massing, or at the back of a border.

Diabolo® prefers full sun to part shade. It is tolerant of acidic, alkaline, and dry soils.

## Garden Tips for April

- Thoroughly water newly planted trees and shrubs, as this can make the difference between success and replacement
- Prune out any winter damaged branches or plants
- Prune spring flowering plants, like forsythias, after they are finished blooming
- Ground covers can be pruned back to remove winter injury and clean up plants
- Watch for diseases after a period of warm and humid weather
- Choose compact, bushy plants when buying annuals
- Plant warm season bedding plants after soil temperatures are in the low 60s
- Protect warm season vegetables and annuals when temperatures get close to freezing
- Plant vegetables crops in successive

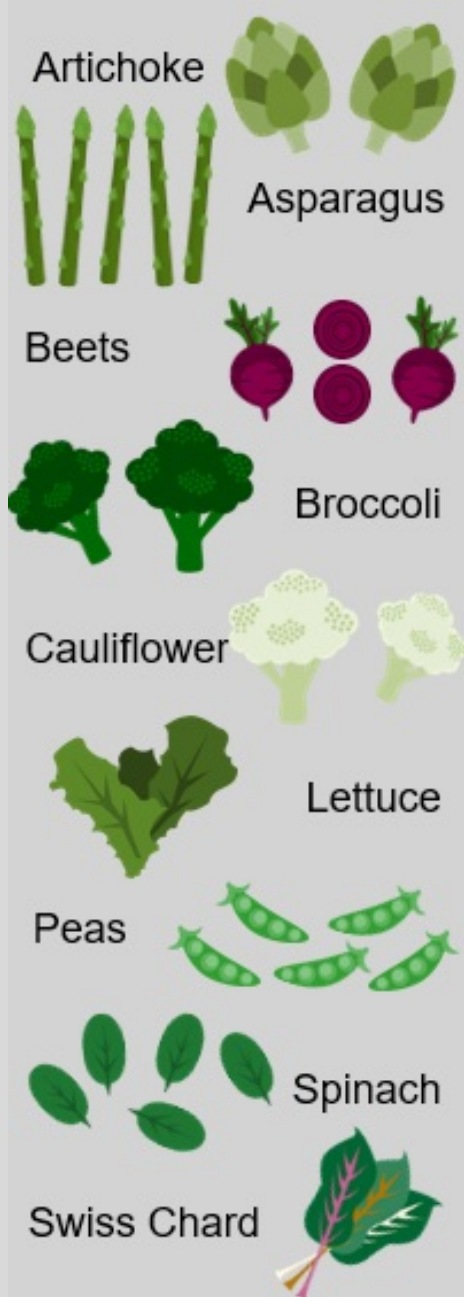
## Eat Seasonally

In-season produce is fresher, cheaper, more nutritious, and better for the environment. These are some of the seasonal crops for April:



plantings to have a steady harvest

- Do not plant cucurbits or okra until early May
- Fire blight can be controlled at this time; take control measures for susceptible plants
- Hummingbird scouts come around in early April; prepare feeders with one part sugar and one water; you do not need to use red food coloring
- Insects will become active again soon - scout frequently for infestations that can be taken care of early
- Warm-season grass lawns can be established in late April
- Begin fertilizer the land in April based on soil test recommendations
- Check for the presence of grubs in the lawn



## Upcoming Events

### Sensory Container Gardens

**Date & Time:** April 6th, 6:00pm to 9:00pm

**Location:** Mid-America Technology Center, 27438 OK-59, Wayne, OK 73095

In this workshop, students will learn about the mental health benefits of gardening and create their very own sensory container gardens. We'll upcycle unique planters and fill them with plants that have distinctive taste, smell, touch, sound, and visual characteristics. This project will foster mindfulness with a take home container garden that connects you to your nerves... [read more](#)



### 2021 Food For Thought Garden

## Series: What A Plant Wants

**Date & Time:** April 13th, 5:00pm to 6:00pm

**Location:** Cleveland County Fairgrounds, North Room, 601 E Robinson, Norman, OK 73071

Achieving green thumb status can seem like a mysterious magic. If you understand how plants work, it becomes more of a science. In this kick off for the Food for Thought workshop series, we'll explain how to keep plants happy through... [read more](#)



## 2021 Food For Thought Garden

### Series: Let's Get Dirty

**Date & Time:** April 20th, 5:00pm to 6:00pm

**Location:** Cleveland County Fairgrounds, North Room, 601 E Robinson, Norman, OK 73071

Not only do we need to understand how plants work, we also need to understand soil and how it supports life. Soil is much more than just! In this second Food for Thought class, we'll discuss soil nutrients, soil testing, and appropriate amendments... [read more](#)



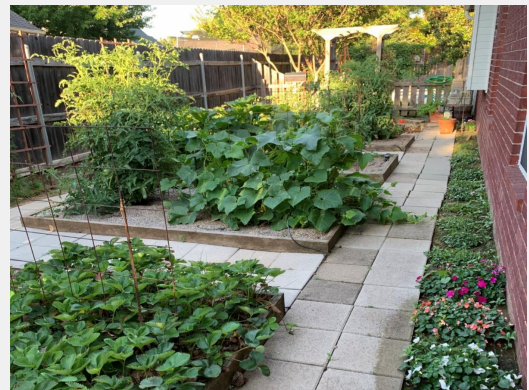
## 2021 Food For Thought Garden

### Series: Make Your Bed

**Date & Time:** April 27th, 5:00pm to 6:00pm

**Location:** Cleveland County Fairgrounds, North Room, 601 E Robinson, Norman, OK 73071

In-ground, raised beds, containers... There are a lot of places to put your garden plants! In this workshop, we'll explain how to select a site for your garden and bed construction. We'll also discuss materials that can be used and some other... [read more](#)



## 2021 Food For Thought Garden

### Series: Garden To Grub

**Date & Time:** May 4th, 5:00pm to 6:00pm

**Location:** Cleveland County Fairgrounds, North Room, 601 E Robinson, Norman, OK 73071

The soil has been amended, the beds are built, and the plants are in the ground. Now what? In this section of our Food for Thought garden series, we'll discuss how to keep the plants alive along with some other season-long strategies... [read more](#)



## 2021 Food For Thought Garden

### Series: Quit Bugging Me

**Date & Time:** May 11th, 5:00pm to 6:00pm

**Location:** Cleveland County Fairgrounds, North Room, 601 E Robinson, Norman, OK 73071

We're not the only ones who want to eat our delicious garden vegetables. Garden pests can be just around the corner, ready to



sweep in and attack our hard work. In this workshop, we'll discuss how to recognize pest damage and strategies to prevent the from getting to the garden... [read more](#)



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## 2021 Food For Thought Garden Series: Fruity And Nutty

**Date & Time:** May 18th, 5:00pm to 6:00pm

**Location:** Cleveland County Fairgrounds, North Room, 601 E Robinson, Norman, OK 73071

Growing your own food extends beyond the vegetable garden. Fruit trees can be a valuable addition to the landscape. It take a few years to reach production, so it's important to assess your commitment level before getting started... [read more](#)



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## 2021 Food For Thought Garden Series: What's The Buzz?

**Date & Time:** May 25th, 5:00pm to 6:00pm

**Location:** Cleveland County Fairgrounds, North Room, 601 E Robinson, Norman, OK 73071

Over 90% of all known flowering plants, and almost all fruits and vegetables, require pollination to produce crops. Between honeybee colony collapse disorder and the cline of monarch butterflies, pollinators have become a major interest for... [read more](#)



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