



June 2019

THE NEW HORT THYMES

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



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CCMGA Demo Garden Open

Come see all the beauty in bloom

Overwhelmed by your yard? Has this rainy season turned your landscape into a messy jungle? Or maybe you just need something to do on a Saturday morning? Come check out the Cleveland County Master Gardener Association's Teaching and Demonstration Gardens! This demonstration area includes over two dozen styles of gardening, from backyard to zen. Master Gardeners will be available to provide background on the different beds and show participants how they can do similar things in their home landscapes. This is a great way to get ideas and hands-on advice for your landscape.

Tours for school groups, scout troops, youth groups, and other organization are available by appointment. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact the Cleveland County Extension Office at 405-321-4774 or courtney.dekalb@okstate.edu.

Hybrid vs. Heirloom Tomatoes

When tomato enthusiasts encounter a tomato skeptic, they quickly respond with a “Well, you haven’t had [insert quirky name] tomato. It’s an heirloom.” It leads gardeners to believe that in order to get that classic homegrown tomato flavor, they must grow Cherokee Purples or Black Krimms or German Johnsons. So what’s the deal with heirlooms? They come in fun colors and shapes and it’s true, they taste pretty darn good.

But does that mean hybrid tomatoes are inferior? No, not necessarily. Classic varieties like Big Boy, Better Boy, and Beefsteak taste great and are a lot easier to grow. Newer hybrids, like Juliet and Sun Gold, are receiving more attention as well. Hybrid means that the tomato had two parents. These two parents were selected for their desirable traits, like disease resistance or fruit size, and cross-pollinated to create the next generation (referred to as the F1 generation).

Heirlooms are tomato varieties that have become stable over time. That amount of time is up for debate, but most consider these varieties to be older than WWII. Seeds saved from the fruit of heirloom tomatoes will sprout an almost identical tomato. Hybrids will not – they will have some of the less desirable traits from the original parents.

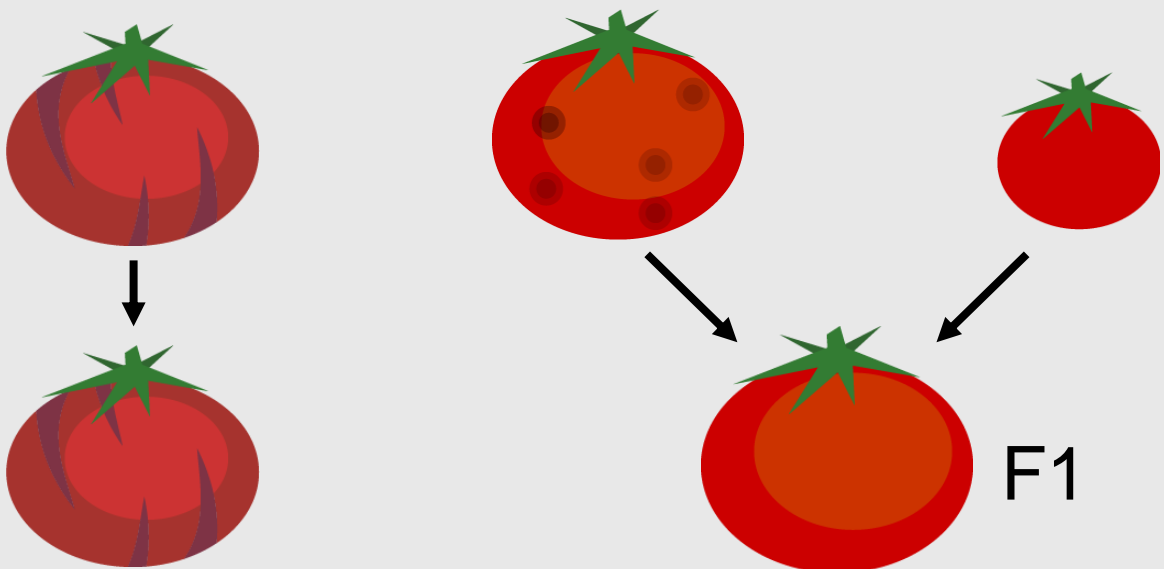
When deciding whether or not to grow heirlooms or hybrids, don’t limit the potential! A mix of both will increase the chance of success.



Image 1. Black Krim, an heirloom with dark purple stripes



Image 2. Sun Gold, a popular hybrid cherry tomato with orange flesh



Heirloom Genetics

Hybrid Genetics

Brighten the Evening with Night Bloomers

As the days get longer, gardeners find themselves spending more time outside in the evening. One way to make that time more relaxing is to include night blooming flowers in the landscape. Oftentimes pollinated by moths and highly fragrant, these flowers open up as the sun goes down and close before the following morning.



Moonflower

Ipomoea alba

Moonflowers are a tender perennial with large, creamy white flowers. The vining habit makes this plant a good selection for trellises and pergolas around the patio. The flowers are fragrant and great for attracting night moths to the garden. The heart shaped leaves provide interest during the day. Moonflowers are easily grown from seed – it is recommended to start them six to eight weeks before the last frost.



Night Blooming Jasmine

Cestrum nocturnum

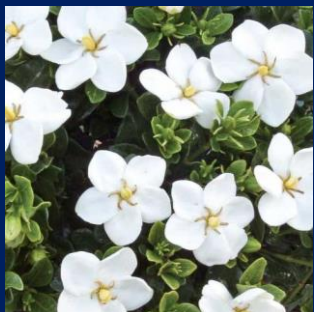
Clusters of yellow-white, tubular flowers open in the evening with a delicate fragrance. It is an evergreen shrub with lance shaped leaves. Grow night blooming jasmine in moist, well-drained soil that is slightly sandy. These plants prefer morning sun, with some shade in the afternoon. Night blooming jasmine is a tropical shrub, only hardy to zone 8. It is best grown in containers and overwintered in the garage.



Tuberose

Polianthes tuberosa

Tuberose creates a showy display of highly fragrant, waxy flower spikes. The foliage is grass-like, growing to approximately 18 inches. It requires well-drained soil with medium moisture. Plant rhizomes two inches deep and six inches apart. Hardy from zone 7 to 10, some gardeners may wish to dig up rhizomes in the fall and store them until the spring. Tuberose is a popular cut flower and can be used in arrangements around the home.



Cape Jasmine

Gardenia jaminoides 'Kleim's Hardy'

One of the hardiest gardenia species, Kleim's Hardy cape jasmine is a compact evergreen shrub with ivory flowers and yellow centers. These plants prefer morning sun with afternoon shade. Choose a location with moister, well-drained soil that is slightly acidic. Deadheading may be required for continuous blooming. Gardenias bloom throughout the entire day, but their fragrance is especially present at night time.

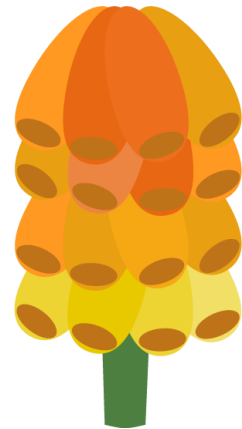


June Plant of the Month: Red Hot Poker

Add vibrant colors to the garden with this drought tolerant plant

When thinking of drought tolerant plants, images of rocks, cacti, and scrub might come to mind. This is often a misconception. In Oklahoma, we have a large amount of drought tolerant, flowering plants available to the home gardener. One of those is the red hot poker, *Kniphofia triangularis*.

This plant has striking spike blooms of orange and yellow tubular shaped flowers. Bloom time begins in June and lasts through July. The tubular shaped flowers are a great attractant for hummingbirds. Red hot poker requires well-drained soil and full sun. If planted in overly moist soils, they will begin to decline. There are several cultivars available with varying degrees of warm colored blooms and sizes, bringing vibrant colors to any xeriscape garden.



Spike /spīk/: a type of flower arrangement where flowers are directly attached to the stem

Garden Tips for June

- Mulch ornamentals, vegetables, and annuals to reduce soil crusting, and to regulate temperatures and moisture
- Deadhead tired annuals to increase future blooms
- Continue scouting for insect damage in flower and vegetables beds – spider mites become prevalent this time of year
- Scout for diseases – powdery mildew can be prevalent after excess moisture
- Pinch back fall blooming perennials to create fuller plants with prolific blooms
- Fertilize warm-season grass at 1 lb of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. to maintain a thick, green lawn; do not fertilize cool season grasses
- Recruit someone to mow the lawn and water the bed if leaving for vacation
- Seeding of warm-season grasses should be completed by the end of June
- White grubs will soon emerge as adult June beetles; watch for heavy populations
- Protect trees from lawnmowers and weed eaters by mulching or using protective aerated covers
- Stay on top of weeding in the vegetable bed; weeds rob vegetables of nutrients and decrease the yield
- Remember to prune tomatoes – this increases airflow and limits disease pressure within the canopy
- Side dress vegetables with compost or fish emulsion to give them a boost
- Repeat plantings of vegetables for extended harvest later on
- Renovate overgrown strawberry beds after the last harvest by mowing off the top foliage

Eat Seasonally

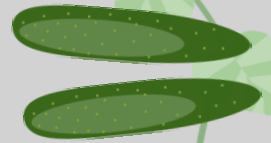
In-season produce is fresher, cheaper, more nutritious, and better for the environment. These are some of the seasonal crops for June:

Blackberries



Corn

Cucumbers



Green Beans

Peaches



Peppers

Purple Hull Peas



Strawberries

Summer Squash



Upcoming Events

June 4th, 6:30pm to 8:00pm – Tips and Tricks for Homegrown Tomatoes

Cleveland County OSU Extension Office, Classroom “C”, 601 E. Robinson St., Norman, OK 73071

2018 was a difficult year for Oklahoma tomatoes. If you’re looking to have better luck this year, come join Cleveland County Horticulture Educator, Courtney DeKalb-Myers, to learn tips and tricks for better tomatoes. Varieties, trellising systems, and troubleshooting will be discussed.

This class is free and no reservations are required.

June 25th, 5:30pm – Cleveland County Extension Community Forum

Cleveland County OSU Extension Office, Classroom “C”, 601 E. Robinson St., Norman, OK 73071

Cleveland County Extension is hosting a community forum to discuss opportunities and challenges impacting children, youth, families, the community and its economy, and the area’s natural and environmental resources. All members of the community are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

The event is free, but reservations are required. To make a reservation, contact the Cleveland County Extension office at 405-321-4774.

July 13th, 10:00am to 11:30am – Getting the DIRT on SOIL

Cleveland County OSU Extension Office, Classroom “C”, 601 E. Robinson St., Norman, OK 73071

Learn what to do with soils that seem too poor to grow grass, flowers, or vegetables by understanding how soil composition affects growth. In class, students will turn clay into prime planting soil! You’ll learn the secrets to soil improvement that are easy to do and will increase your chances of growing things you never believed. Learn about plant nutrients and how to spot nutrient deficiencies. The class will also demystify the numbers on fertilizer bags. You’ll be ready to put in that garden or turn your lawn green after completing “Getting the DIRT on SOIL!”

This class is free and no reservations are required.

About the editor...

Courtney DeKalb-Myers has been the Cleveland County horticulture educator since August 2018. Her position handles homeowner inquiries, master gardener advisement, and other horticulture education programming throughout the state. She is originally from Norman, Oklahoma and developed a passion for gardening at a young age. She went onto study horticulture at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater with an emphasis in entrepreneurship. After graduating from OSU, she moved to Raleigh, North Carolina to attend NC State for graduate school. Her research was heavily focused on vegetable production, specifically processing tomatoes for a local salsa product. The emphasis on local products motivated her to move back to Oklahoma and she is so excited to now serve the town that raised her.

