

Vegetable Gardening Class

Texas AgriLife Extension Service, part of Texas A & M University, is offering its Earth Kind Backyard Vegetable Gardening class on Tuesday and Thursday evening, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., beginning July 31 and continuing through August 9, 2012. This class will cover: what to plant and when, basic information on our soils, the importance of using compost, fertilizer needs of vegetables, a variety of raised beds, and we will go over the most common diseases and pest challenges that we face in south Texas.

This class is being held at the North San Juan Community Center, located on the Nolana Loop extension. The cost of the complete four part series is just \$45.00. Whether you want to grow a vegetable garden to feed the family and reduce your grocery bill, or you just want to grow some tasty tomatoes, this class will provide the basic information to get you started.

Class members will have the opportunity to visit our demonstration garden, located behind the Community Center, to get ideas that can be helpful in their own situation. Instructors for the program are Drs. Juan Anciso, Extension Vegetable Specialist and Raul Villanueva, Entomologist, as well as, Noe Garcia of Texas Plant and Soil Lab, Ricardo Carranza, Master Gardener, and myself.

To register for this class contact our Edinburg office at (956) 383-1026 or e-mail me at b-storz@tamu.edu.

We will also have information available on our upcoming Grow'n Growers program, which is a nine month, once a week program, for folks who would like to produce vegetables and fruits for sale at the farmers markets. The Grow'n Growers program is geared toward folks who want to earn income on a small, commercial operation. This program will begin in late summer and continue through June of 2013.

Our Master Gardener volunteer training is also going to start soon with all day Thursday classes that will run from September 6 through November 15, 2012. This horticulture program is directed to people who want to share the knowledge they gain as volunteers with Texas AgriLife Extension Service in either plant and soil research or by providing presentations for meetings of community organizations through our speaker's bureau or at schools.

These classes have something for everyone: the home gardener, the small commercial producer and the volunteer. So, join us for one of these opportunities and improve your horticultural skills.

Barbara Storz is an Extension educator with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, a part of Texas A & M University. She can be reached in their Hidalgo County office at (956) 383-1026 or by e-mail at b-storz@tamu.edu.