



THE GREEN THUMB

The GARDEN CLUB OF DALLAS

www.thegardenclubofdallas.com



VOLUME LXXXVIII, Number 11

DALLAS, TEXAS

November 2025

Garden Club Meeting

November 19, 2025

*Texas Daffodils:
Get Started Early For
Spring*



Speaker: Mary Ann Moreland



President's Message

November has me thinking of what I am thankful for. There are the obvious ones of family, friends, food and shelter. But what about the reliable patterns of nature. We don't think of these often because they are always there. The sun will rise in the morning, and we count on it. It gives us light, heat, another chance to start again and do better. The seasons change, although sometimes not on our timing, and we count on it. We can look forward and plan our actions accordingly.

These patterns give us a sense of stability. Events we can usually count on but don't think much about how they affect our sense of well being. Knowing spring is going to bring warmer weather, helps us deal with the cold. Counting on fall being right around the corner of a really hot summer, give us the mental energy to keep trucking on.

I am thankful for these patterns in nature, and the structure that they bring. What in nature do you find to be thankful for?

Maybe take a few moments to stop and appreciate nature's patterns and what all they do for us.

I'm sure our sponsors appreciate and are thankful for you patronizing their businesses.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Anna

Visitors Welcome

CLUB MEETING LOCATION

At the Dallas JCC

7900 Northaven Road, Dallas
Next to North Haven Gardens

Meet & Greet 6:30 pm
Program at 7pm

2025 OFFICERS

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Sheet Composting

Submitted by Bob Grossman

By this time of the year, two things have played out in your garden. First, the supply of nitrogen has been depleted by the plants or leached from the root zone by rain or irrigation. Second, and most importantly, much of the organic matter has been lost due to summer heat. During the summer, microflora, heat-loving bacteria explode in numbers and consume organic matter in the soil at a high rate. It is important to replenish the soil on an annual basis.

Organic matter improves the texture of the soil and is the soil's storehouse for nitrogen and other nutrients. This loss can result in reduced plant vigor and lower crop yields. With a little work, your soil can replenish its supply of humus during the winter. Organic matter/compost is the best thing you can give your garden. In heavy clay soils, it holds and slowly releases nutrients, improves aeration, enhances root penetration and increases water infiltration. Compost also reduces crusting of the clay soil surface and helps sandy soils retain moisture and nutrients.

The customary method of producing compost is to mound organic materials in bins or piles, add a little soil, water and fertilizer and wait for the materials to break down. When greater amounts are needed or where compost piles are not feasible, there is another way. This method is called *sheet composting* (sometimes referred to as ditch composting or composting in place). Sheet composting involves spreading raw organic material over the soil, working it in and then letting Mother Nature do her job.

As the organic matter decomposes, it forms humus, which is often described as the Life-Force of the soil. As humus develops, nutrients in the material are converted into forms that the plants can use. Chemically, humus has many active sites which bind to ions of plant nutrients, making them more available. Humic acids are also produced during decomposition. Humic acids buffer the high pH in alkaline clay soils and help make other nutrients in the soil more available to plants.

Add a three to four inch layer of shredded leaves, hay, straw or a combination of these materials. You can also add a quantity of commercially available compost in bulk or in bags. The microflora in the soil that break down organic matter need carbon for cell growth and nitrogen for energy. Since most dry organic materials are high in carbon and low in nitrogen, add a nitrogen source to the materials. For each 50 square feet of garden area, use 1 pound of a slow release, high nitrogen fertilizer or 4-5 pounds of cottonseed meal. Work the fertilizer into the soil along with the organic material. Because leaves and other organic materials are readily available in the fall, this is the best time to do sheet composting for the good of your soil.



Mary Ann Moreland



National Master Flower Show Judge
 American Daffodil Society Judge and Instructor
 Sogetsu Teacher – Grade 4 Non-teaching
 Texas Master Gardener Emeritus
 President Texas Daffodil Society
 4th Director (Newsletter) District X, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.
 Bachelor of Business Texas Tech University
 Member of Designers with Flair Study Club, Dallas Flower Show Judges Founders Group, Texas Daffodil Society, American Orchid Society, Sunnyvale Orchid Society, Just Bulbs Garden Club

Mary Ann retired as a manager from AT&T Communications and owner of Cuff-Moreland and now spends her spare time with her husband, grandkids, granddogs and vegetable garden.

Foods available for the Pilgrims Thanksgiving in 1621

Fish: cod, bass, herring, shad, bluefish and lots of eel

Seafood: clams, lobsters, mussels and small quantities of oysters

Birds: Wild turkey, goose, duck, crane, swan, partridge and other miscellaneous waterfowl. They were also known to occasionally eat eagles (which tasted like mutton according to Winslow in 1623)

Other meat: venison and possibly some salt pork and chicken.

Grain: Wheat flour, Indian corn, cornmeal and barley (mainly for making beer)

Fruits: raspberries, strawberries, grapes, plums, cherries, blueberries, gooseberries (these would have been dried as none would have been in season).

Vegetables: small quantities of peas, squashes (including pumpkins) and beans.

Nuts: walnuts, chestnuts, acorns, hickory nuts and groundnuts.

Herbs and Seasonings: onions, leeks, strawberry leaves, currants, sorrel, yarrow, carvel, brooklime, liverwort, watercress and flax. From England they brought seeds and probably planted radishes, lettuce, carrots, onions and cabbage. Olive oil in small quantities may have been brought over, though the Pilgrims had to sell most of their oil and butter before sailing in order to stay on budget.

Other foods: Maple syrup, honey, small quantities of butter, Holland cheese and eggs.

Autumn Comforts

Celebrate the cozy side of fall with this autumn-themed word search. Search up, down, forward, backward and diagonally to find these seasonal words.

Acorns	Brisk	Cornucopia	Harvest	Maple	Scarf
Amber	Caramel	Cozy	Harvest moon	Mittens	Soup
Apple	Chestnuts	Crisp	Hayride	Pecans	Spices
Blanket	Chili	Flannel	Hearth	Pumpkin	Sweaters
Bonfire	Cider	Foliage	Lantern	Quilts	Windy
Boots	Cinnamon	Gourd	Leaves	Rake	Woodsmoke

W P J L L S K E E A V V I A M B E R H I I S
 B U B E E W S Q E N O O Q R Z R D S E U E A
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Mystery Search

This month on the *website*, **NOT IN THE GREEN THUMB**, we will have a hidden

Turkey for you to find. This is for members only and the first one to find the **Turkey** and emails us by noon on November 25 at info@thegardenclubofdallas.com will win a prize.



Anna is our October winner. She discovered that "great" should have been "greet". Congratulations to sharp eyed Anna.

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This club welcomes beginner "wannabe" as well as experienced gardeners. We all can learn something about gardening at each meeting.

Visitors are welcome. Membership is open to men and women, teenagers and young adults. \$50 annual dues includes *The Green Thumb* and membership in the national organization: **Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America.**



Bruce Miller

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If anyone has a favorite flower, plant, recipe or joke, please send it to info@thegardenclubofdallas.com for inclusion either in the Green Thumb or on the website. Thanks



Board Meeting

7:00 pm
 November 13, 2025
 Anna Williams
 17602 Squaw Valley
 Dallas, TX 75252



Door Prize Winner



Fran Powell

She won a \$50 gift card from Jacksons Home & Garden

Happy Thanksgiving



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Go to Members login: password "lily"

Connie Grossman

214-744-BAGS (2247)
1-888-634-BAGS

Cell (214) 587-5001
Fax (214) 744-1121

connie@printedbags.com



www.printedbags.com
Dallas, TX



THE GREEN THUMB is published monthly by The Garden Club of Dallas

Connie Grossman & Dan Witman, Editors

6115 Linden Lane, Dallas, TX 75230

Email: info@thegardenclubofdallas.com

Annual Ad rates: Business Card (3.5"x2") - \$50; Large Ad (3.5"x3") - \$200 or 4 \$50 Gift Certificates

CARROT CAKE with CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

1 cup pecans if desired	2 teaspoons cinnamon
2 cups sifted flour	1-1/2 cup Crisco oil
2 cups sugar	4 eggs
1 teaspoon salt	3 cups shredded carrots (1 pound bag)
2 teaspoons baking soda	

Sift dry ingredients together. Add oil and eggs, blend well. Stir in carrots and nuts.

Mix well. Bake in 9x12" pan (greased and floured) 350 degrees for 50 minutes or when toothpick comes out clean.

FROSTING

8 oz. cream cheese	2 teaspoons vanilla
3-1/2 cups powdered sugar	¼ cup butter

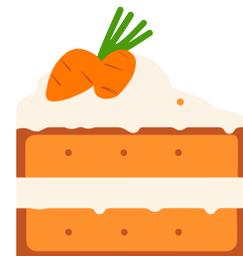
Blend until smooth. Frost and Enjoy!

Store in refrigerator

I served this at the March meeting and made it GLUTEN FREE using King Arthur gluten free flour

And it turned out just fine. It cooked a little quicker and was very moist.

Enjoy!





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