

SOUTH PLAINS HORTICULTURE

For the most recent updates, straight from the source



WELCOME TO OUR

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE:



- AG Chat 2-3
- Beneficials in the Garden 4-5
- The Drop of Life 6
- Getting Involved 7
- Tree of the Month! 8
- Shrub of the Month! 9
- Perennial of the Month! 10
- TDA Harvest of the Month 11



LUBBOCK COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

For more information, contact christina.reid@ag.tamu.edu (806) 775-1740



earth-wise guide to

Aphids

AG

chat



aphid, magnified

Description

Tiny (1/16-1/8") insect with soft body, long legs and antennae; cornicles or "tailpipes" on tip of abdomen; 250 species; reproduce quickly; attack new growth or underside of leaf

Infestation

Suck sap from plants and excrete clear, sticky "honeydew" that often grows black, sooty fungus that blocks sunlight from leaves; feeding can stunt growth, deform and discolor leaves, or cause them to drop prematurely; usually attack new growth; some aphids transmit plant diseases

Attack

- Bedding plants
- Hibiscus
- Oleanders
- Roses
- Vegetables
- Crape myrtles
- Oaks
- Pecans

Identify before you buy
Need help diagnosing a Texas plant problem? Call the
ice @ Agrilife Extension Serv
854-9600 and ask for the
master gardener desk or
email them at
travismg@ag.tamu.edu

Least-Toxic Solutions

- Monitor often for early detection and to determine if control is needed; natural predators may make treatment unnecessary
- For minor infestations, spray host plants with water at high pressure to dislodge aphids
- Introduce ladybugs or lacewings and other beneficial insects to your landscape after infestation has been identified – for best results follow release instructions carefully; best to release in an enclosed area
- Use sticky barriers to prevent ants from tending aphids and protecting them from natural predators
- Help control aphids with insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils
- Use a row cover to physically keep the aphids off vegetable crops while allowing air, light and water exchange
- Use natural or slow-release fertilizer to avoid excessive new growth
- Most aphids are host-plant specific and usually don't move to other species

If You Must Use a Pesticide...

- Avoid systemic pesticides on vegetables and edible plants. Systemic pesticides are taken up by the plant and make its tissues and fluids toxic to foliage-feeding insects
- Non-systemic pesticides must be applied to all infested plant surfaces for best results, because they must come into direct contact with the insects
- Avoid applying broad spectrum pesticides - they destroy beneficial insects as well as pests and leave trees or shrubs unprotected if pests return
- Apply only to plants specified on the label - some formulations injure tender ornamental plants and new growth
- Mix according to directions and apply only recommended dosage
- Several pesticide applications may be needed for control at 7-10 day intervals, or as instructed by the product label
- Avoid overuse of chemicals – many pests have become resistant to certain pesticides



aphids and associated sooty mold



GUIDE TO APHIDS

CONT.

product toxicity comparisons

Evaluation of active ingredients only; does not include toxicity information on inert or "other" ingredients

Toxicity/Threat:

d low C low to moderate b high a highest NA not applicable
? unknown toxicity  banned by EPA  earth-wise

Hazards:



note	Product Name	active ingredient(s) / concentrations	human toxicity acute/chronic	aquatic life	birds, bees, pet	soil mobility	environmental persistence
	Bonide® Hot Pepper Wax Ready-to-Use Concern® Insect Killing Soap	Capsaicin and related compounds 0.18%	C ?	C	d	?	?
	Garden Safe® Fungicide 3-in-1 Ready-to-Use	Fatty acid soap 1%	C ?	C	d	d	d
	Orange Guard® Home Pest Control	Extract of neem oil 0.9%	C ?	C	b	d	d
	Green Light® Neem Concentrate	D-limonene	C ?	C	b	d	d
		Clarified hydrophobic extract, of Neem Oil 70%	b ?	C	c	d	d
		Thiamethoxan 0.20	C	C	b	d	d
	Maxide® Dual Insect Killer	Lambda-cyhalothrin 0.04%	C	C	b	b	c
		Pyrethrin 0.02%	C	a	b	b	c
	Green Light® Neem II Ready-to-Use	Piperonyl butoxide 0.20%	C	a	b	d	d
		Clarified hydrophobic extract of neem Oil	C	b	c	b	d
	Ortho® Orthenex® Garden Insect & Disease Control Concentrate	Acephate 4%, Triflorate 3.25%	C	a	c	a	c
		Fenbutatin oxide 0.75%	C	a	c	a	c
	Concern® Multi-Purpose Insect Killer	Pyrethrin 0.24%	C	a	b	b	d
		Potassium salt of fatty acid	C	b	b	b	d
	Bayer Advanced™ PowerForce®	Tetramethrin 0.15%	C	b	a	b	d
	Mosquito Killer Plus Outdoor Fogger	Permethrin 0.15%	C	b	a	b	d
		Piperonyl butoxide 0.75%	C	b	a	b	d
	Bayer Advanced™ Complete Insect Dust Ready-to-Use	Permethrin 0.25%	C	?	a	b	d
			C	?	a	b	d
	Bayer Advanced™ Tree & Shrub Insect Control Concentrate	Imidacloprid 1.47%	C	b	a	a	?
	Bonide® All Seasons® Horticultural Spray Oil	Petroleum oil 98%	C	b	a	a	?
	GardenTech® Sevin® Ready-to-Use 5% Dust Bug Killer	Carbaryl 5%	C	b	a	a	?
	Bayer Advanced™ 2 in 1 Systemic Flower Care	Disulfoton 0.1%	b		a	a	b

The City of Austin and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service provide this information as a comparative reference only. Listing of specific product trade names does not constitute an endorsement of its use. Many other pesticides and pesticide products are available and may be suitable for use other than those listed in these tables.

Why Grow Green?

The Grow Green program educates Austin area residents on the LEAST TOXIC approach to pest management and responsible fertilizer use. The goal is to reduce the amount of landscape chemicals that runoff into waterways or leach into our groundwater and degrade water quality.

Grow Green is a partnership between the City of Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review Department and Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Call 974-2550 or 854-9600 for more information or visit our website at www.growgreen.org.

Products rated by Grady J. Glenn, Ph.D., B.C.E., of the Pesticide Safety Education Program, Texas AgriLife Extension Service who can be reached for questions at (979) 862-1035. The rating system was developed by Philip Dickey of the Washington Toxics Coalition.



01/10



We are starting a YouTube Channel! Head over to YouTube and look up Lubbock AgriLife Extension Horticulture as we post videos on current topics and tutorials for all your horticultural needs.



Be sure to subscribe and click the bell to get notifications of the latest videos!

SOW & GROW

Are you in need of seeds for this growing season? Check out the Lubbock Public Libraries to make use of the Sow & Grow Seed Library programs. Each library has a variety of seed packets free of charge to the community! Seed donations are also appreciated.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW SUMMER INTERN!



Hello, my name is Brenna Estrada. I'm an upcoming senior attending Texas Tech University. I will be interning this summer at Texas A&M Agrilife Extension in Lubbock County. Excited to help out this summer and to serve the community!

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Lubbock County Extension brings you the latest ag news every day to your local radio station! Tune in to 105.7, the Red Dirt Rebel, between 1:45 and 2:00 p.m. every day. Be sure to give us a listen!





BENEFICIALS IN THE GARDEN



In my mind, the word flies has been synonymous with SWAT!, No thinking, no hesitation, just get rid of them!

However, the object of my murderous intent, the common housefly (*Musca domestica*), is just one species of fly in the huge order Diptera. There are 120,000 known species and still counting. Literally, thousands of these species have earned a much more benevolent response than instant smashing.

These Diptera species are the pollinators, performing a vital function for all of earth's life. Among these essential tiny creatures are gnats, midges, no-see-ums, and, of course, a diverse assortment of flies.

As members of the Diptera order, pollinating families share certain defining characteristics including:

- Only one pair of functional wings (a few species are wingless);

- Halteres, a second pair of wing remnants. Dipterans use them as stabilizers or airspeed detectors;

- Large eyes;

- Life cycle is a complete metamorphosis; and

- Larvae have no true legs.

The relationship between pollinating flies and flowers is an ancient one, dating back at least 150 million years. Fossil evidence reveals that flies and beetles were the primary pollinators of the earliest flowers, instead of today's hero, the bee. Bees simply had not evolved yet.

Flies visit more than 1,100 species of flowers and have the potential for pollinating each species at each visit. Flowers need efficient pollination, which requires a minimal loss of pollen and as little energy as possible spent on nectar production. Flies need nourishment, which involves finding the most nectar at each stop, simultaneously avoiding predators, watching for mates, and staying warm enough to fly.

Some pollinating fly species have evolved hairy bodies that much pollen can stick to at one stop and drop off at the next. In a reciprocating gesture, some flowers have even evolved ways to keep their insect guests warm.

A few of the best-known of our flying fertilizing friends are:



SOURCE:

The Pollinators: True Flies (Diptera) By Betty Gray GCMG



BENEFICIALS IN THE GARDEN

HOVER FLIES (ALSO KNOWN AS SYRPHID FLIES, FLOWER FLIES & DRONE FLIES)

Hover flies, with around 6,000 species globally, are the most abundant pollinating flies. They are common in the Galveston-Houston region, appearing abundantly from late spring to late fall. Often mistaken for wasps or bees, they possess remarkable flying abilities, hovering over flowers like helicopters. They vary in size and color, ranging from 4mm to 25mm and from drab gray or black to bright orange and yellow. In certain agricultural settings, especially orchards, hover flies have proven to be superior pollinators to native bees for fruits like apples, mangoes, and peppers. Additionally, their larvae are highly effective predators, ranking second only to lady beetles and lacewings in consuming pests such as aphids, scales, thrips, and caterpillars.



MOSQUITOES

Yes, even these irritating little bloodsuckers have an up side. Actually, only female mosquitoes are of medical importance as male mosquitoes feed on flower nectar. Species from the genus *Aedes* pollinate *Habenaria obtusata*, an orchid found in the northwestern United States.

HOUSEFLIES AND BLOWFLIES

In one study of the pollinators found in Israeli mango orchards, blowflies were as important in pollination as the honey bee. The housefly still served as a pollinator, but was less effective.



BITING MIDGES AND GALL MIDGES

Species of no-see-ums from the Ceratopogonidae and Cecidomyiidae families are the only known pollinators of cacao trees. The cacao bean is the foundation of that all-important food group, CHOCOLATE! For that, even I am willing to donate a little blood.



LOVEBUGS (ALSO KNOWN AS MARCH FLIES)

Come next spring, when you are scrubbing the gluey little black bodies of the Bibionidae family off your car to preserve the paint, just remember: the adult lovebugs are efficient pollinators. Also, their larvae hasten the recycling of organic matter.



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<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>

At 6,000 species worldwide, hover flies are by far the most numerous of the pollinating flies.

SOURCE:

The Pollinators: True Flies (Diptera) By Betty Gray GCMG

THE DROP OF LIFE

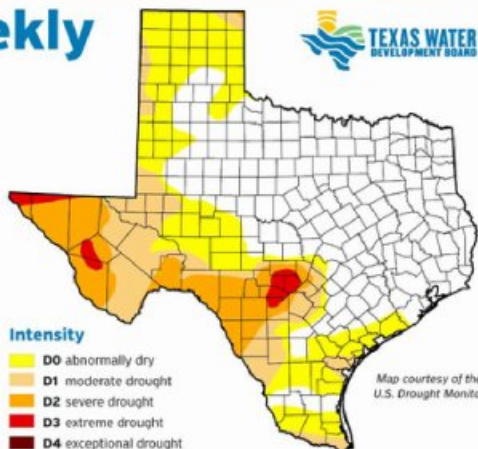
Water Weekly

For the week of 06/03/24



Water conditions

The latest drought map for conditions as of May 28 shows a small uptick in drought from the previous week. This is the first week that drought area has increased in more than a month, and it re-emerged in an area of South Texas centered on San Patricio County.

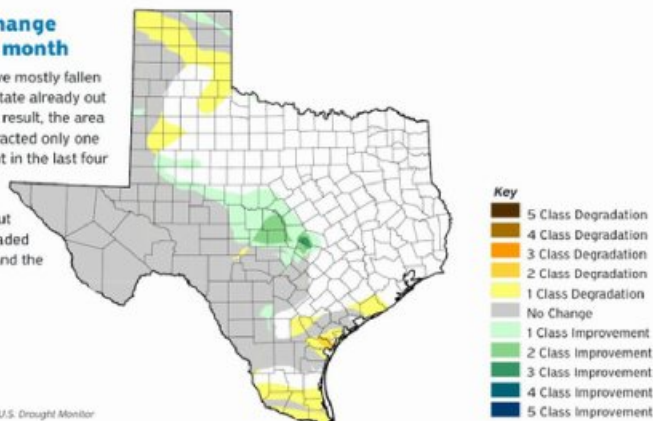


Drought conditions

26% now
26% a week ago
23% three months ago
34% a year ago

Drought change in the last month

Recent rains have mostly fallen in areas of the state already out of drought. As a result, the area of drought contracted only one percentage point in the last four weeks. Drought improved in Central Texas, but conditions degraded in South Texas and the Panhandle.



By Dr. Mark Wentzel, Hydrologist, Office of Water Science and Conservation
Kellen McMurry, Government Relations | Kellen.McMurry@twdb.texas.gov | 512-475-1589
Media Relations | MediaRelations@twdb.texas.gov | 512-463-5129

www.twdb.texas.gov



MINDFUL WATERING

Temperatures are warming up and lawns will be thirsty for proper irrigation! Keep these tips and tricks in mind as you begin watering for the warmer season to be proactive in your lawn maintenance. County Extension agents and the Water Utilities Department are great resources for further information.

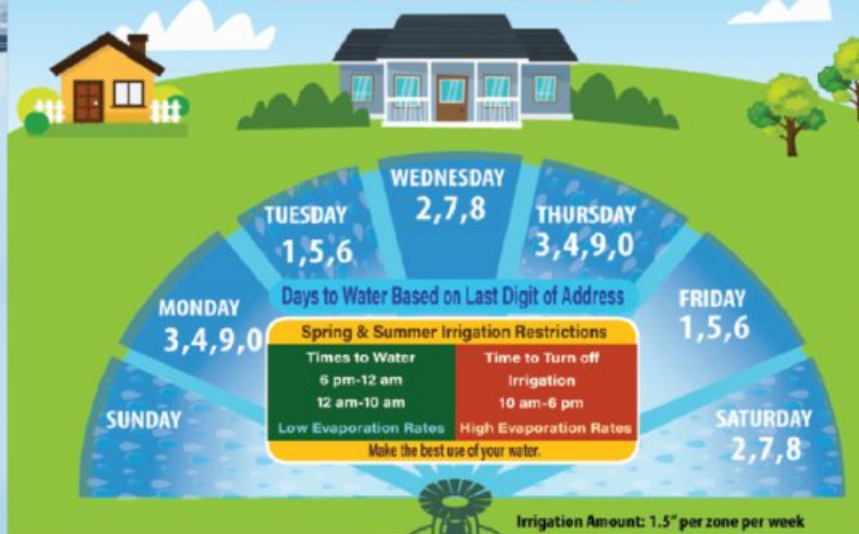
WATERING TIPS:

- Do not water when temps are under 35°F.
- Now is a great time to check irrigation systems for leaks or required maintenance to prevent runoff.
- Avoid watering during precipitation.
- Save time and money by properly programming your irrigation controller.



Spring & Summer Watering Days & Times

IRRIGATION FROM APRIL 1ST - SEPT. 30TH



Getting Involved

around the community

Roots Booker T. Washington Community Garden



Pick Your Own

Saturday, June 22 9am
2109 Cedar Ave, Lubbock

Lubbock Master Gardener Association presents

Composting

With Rita Edwards



FREE!

Garden Success: Monthly Talks
Saturday, April 13, 2024
9:00 AM
Lubbock Master Gardener
Demonstration Garden
on the grounds of
the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum
4111 University Ave.

MASTER GARDENERS

Learn gardening tips with the
Lubbock Master Gardeners!

MONDAY, JUNE 17
6:00 - 7:00
AGES 13+
GROVES BRANCH LIBRARY

5520 19TH ST. | 806.775.3723



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



Working with the Community Foundation of West Texas, LMGA is proud to award students pursuing their education in Horticulture, Botany, Plant Science, or a related field.

All scholarship applications must be completed in full and submitted by June 1.

Visit

<https://lubbockmastergardener.org/scholarship/> for application and more information.

LMGA
LUBBOCK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

JEAN ANNE STRATTON
LMGA HORTICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP



TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
HUNT AND HUNT ASSOCIATES

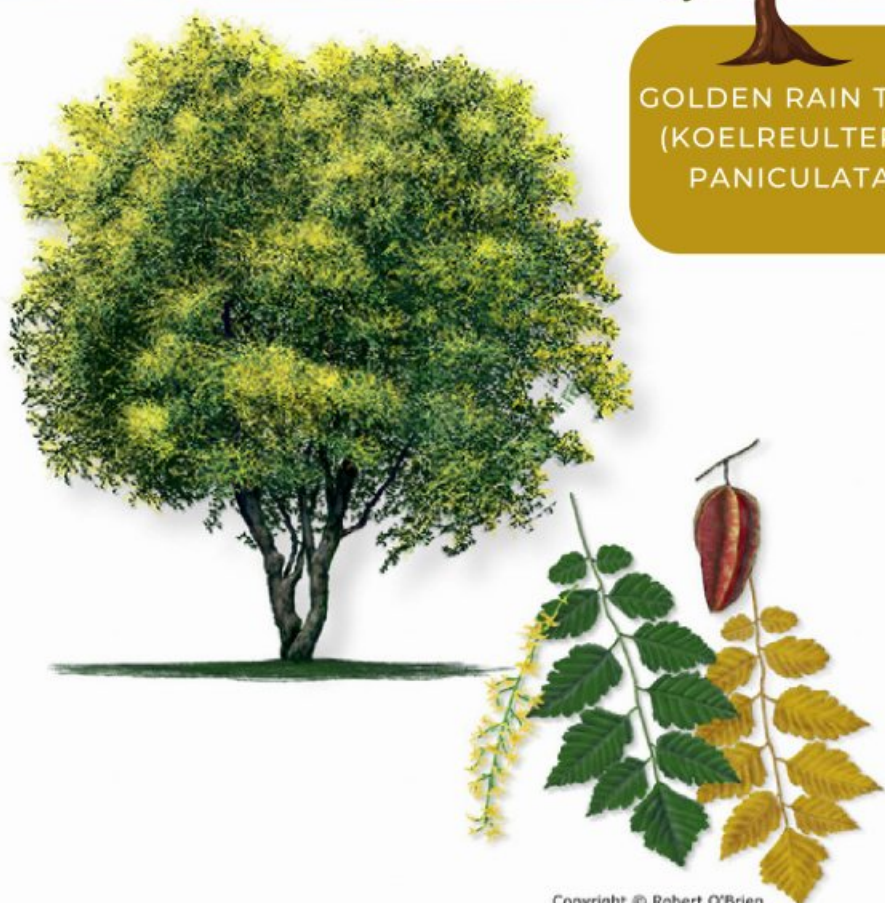
TREE OF THE MONTH!



GOLDEN RAIN TREE
(KOELREUTERIA
PANICULATA)

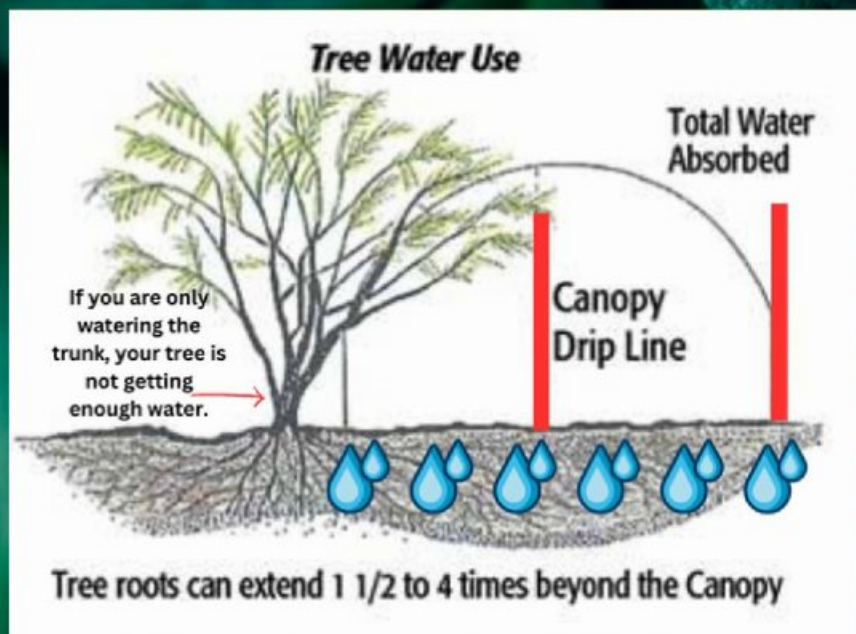
The Golden Rain Tree is a deciduous, Firewise, medium-sized shade tree with a round crown to 40' tall. The tree is native to Korea, China, and Japan, performs best in well-drained soils, but will tolerate a wide range of urban conditions including heat, drought, and poor soils. The Golden Rain Tree gets its name from the long spikes of yellow flowers, up to 12" long, that appear above the foliage from May through July.

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TREE WATERING TIP:



SHRUB OF THE MONTH!

The Chaste Tree, also known by its common names Lilac Chaste Tree, is a native of China and India, although long ago it became naturalized throughout the South. The early American nurseryman Peter Henderson stated that *Vitex* has been cultivated here since 1670. For folks in the warmer part of the South, the "Lilac Chaste Tree" has been the shrub of choice to mimic lilacs, which are restricted to cooler regions.

Vitex is an excellent choice for a large shrub or small flowering tree in the smaller, modern suburban landscape. It does best in full sun and will grow in a variety of soils, provided they are well-drained. After it has been established, the *Vitex* is a good candidate for planting in a xeric garden, where hot, dry surroundings prevail. Like many members of the Vervain family, *Vitex* attracts butterflies and other insects. The older strains had small spikes of flowers in pale lilac, mauve, off-white or light pink, but modern, much-improved varieties such as 'Montrose Purple', 'LeCompte', or the pink 'Salinas Pink' have spikes as long as 8 to 12 inches in length.



GOLDEN RAIN TREE
(*KOELREUTERIA
PANICULATA*)



Many aromatic black or brown seeds may be set, but if the spent spikes are cut off promptly after the first flowering the shrub will bloom again. The common name 'Monk's Pepper' refers to the medieval belief that utilizing potions made from the berries helped monks maintain their vows of chastity. *Vitex* is still an ingredient in herbal remedies for a variety of conditions. The blossoms of *Vitex* emerge from May to September, and the aromatic leaves are palmate, with five to seven leaflets. All dead wood and lower limbs may be removed from the shrubs in wintertime. Propagation is from cuttings in summer or winter. Lower limbs may be layered by burying in the ground, and there are sometimes volunteer seedlings that may be transplanted elsewhere in the garden. *Vitex* is hardy in zones 6-9.

PERENNIAL OF THE MONTH!

LAMB'S EAR
(STACHYS
BYZANTINE)



Lamb's Ear is easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Grown primarily for its thick, soft, velvety, silver-gray leaves which typically form a rapidly spreading mat approximately 4-6" off the ground. Leaves are evergreen in warm climates but will depreciate considerably in harsh winters. Appreciates some light afternoon shade in hot summer climates. Too much shade, however, may impede leaf drying and promote the onset of disease.



The woolly leaves of this plant tend to trap moisture. Plants are generally drought tolerant. Avoid overwatering. If mid-summer foliage decline occurs, pick off damaged leaves as needed. Spreads by creeping stems that root as they go along the ground and can be mildly aggressive in rich soils. Site starter plants 12-18" apart for use as a ground cover. Divide when necessary. Flowers are not particularly showy, and many gardeners prefer to remove the flowering stems as they appear to enhance the ground cover effect.





PEACHES

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
JUNE



DID YOU KNOW?

The word 'peach' has come to mean 'fine' or 'excellent' and is used in many sayings like "everything's peachy" and "life is peachy keen."

FUN FACT

In China, peaches are symbols of long life and good luck.



PEACH
GROWING REGIONS

1. East Texas

2. Central Texas

Peaches are stone fruits, which mean they have large pits or seeds in their centers. Peaches are known for their yellow and red fuzzy skins and they're really soft to the touch. Peaches are mostly grown in the central and eastern regions of Texas. The Hill County peach farms located in central Texas are famous for the quality of their fruit. Peaches grow on trees and taste the best from June through the end of August. Peaches are an extremely juicy fruit and taste great fresh or cooked. Use them with yogurt or in a fruit salad.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

This product was funded by USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

