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April 2019. Volume 1, Issue 1



Welcome!

Another new beginning! Our first newsletter. The circulation isn't big but we are excited to start this new adventure as well. I hope that you find some of this information helpful and most of it interesting. As always, we are interested in your feedback and your ideas. Please don't hesitate to make suggestions for articles, ideas for content, or if you have a suggestion on how we can make this newsletter or the website better please send it to us.

April Garden to do List

The April 2019 Garden to do List is now available on the website. With spring all about us, it is time to get things ready in the garden, the lawn and the greenhouse.

[April 2019 Garden to do List](#)

**Lubbock Master
Gardener Association
Plant Sale April 13 - 14,
2019**

Question of the Month

**What exactly do you mean
when you talk
about "no-till
gardening?"
Should I sell my
tiller?**



Well, I hesitate to give you financial advice even on selling or keeping your tiller. However, I can help with your understanding of the concept of "no-till" from our point of view.

"No-till" doesn't mean that there is never a time that a garden should

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at the Lubbock Civic Center on April 13 or 14. The MG's will have an assortment of ornamentals and vegetable plants. The proceeds from the sale benefit the projects and scholarship fund of the Lubbock Master Gardeners Association.



Organic Living

Think Dirty

I want to talk about dirty things. OK! It's not what you think. I want to talk about the dirty things in your bathroom and cosmetics drawer.

I found an app called [Think Dirty](#). Using the app lets you scan the barcode of a product using your smartphone. The app searches the database and gives you a rating. If the product isn't in the database, you can snap a picture of the front of the package and the ingredients to submit them for review.

Products are given a rating from 0 (CLEAN) to 8 (DIRTY).

They also give recommendations of products to replace ones that score DIRTY.

tiller.

Tillers are especially useful when building and preparing new beds. They are time and back savers. Mixing compost and other amendments into a new grow bed, especially if the old soil is hard and compacted and a mechanical tiller can be a lifesaver.

"No-till" refers to our preference that once a new bed is prepared, that we avoid walking or even stepping on that soil surface. There are a couple of reasons for this. One is to avoid recompacting the soil. We have spent time and effort in adding structure to the soil and we want to do anything we can to disturb that structure until the micro-organisms in the soil are fully established. The microbiome is the second reason.

The community of organisms that exist in the soil is complex and in some ways fragile. We mulch to keep harsh UV radiation from killing the surface layers of bacteria and to hold the moisture. We encourage the growth of earthworms and other higher organisms to create that aggregate structure that enables the infiltration of water and oxygen. It is also the growth of the fungal colonies that facilitate the movement of water and nutrients from distant

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giving each ingredient a rating as well as an overall rating for the product. The description of the ingredients lists information about the risks known for that ingredient.

ThinkDirty doesn't have every product on the shelves of the store. Searching on your devices app store should return a number of other apps you can use to check products by searching on each ingredient one at a time.

I went through most of the products in my cabinet and am replacing them with ones with a lower score as I run out of them. Although I haven't made the switch completely, I am working toward that every month.

So, clean up your bathroom cabinet with Think Dirty!

PASS US AROUND!



Please share this email with a friend. Nothing would thrill us more.

In fact, use the link below and we will enter you into a monthly drawing for a neat garden tool.

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UPDATES!

The 2019 Vegetable Selection Guide

organisms and can seriously hurt your garden productivity.

So the concept of "No-till" would have us use the tiller, or hand till for that matter" when there is a need and when we are not too concerned about damaging the microbiome in the soil. Past that, there should never be a reason to till. Following our organic system, your soil should only get better with time. You should never need to "till in" organic matter or fertilizer. By working with the natural orders and encouraging a healthy microbiome in your soil, you won't need to till your soil again.

For more information about our organic gardening systems visit the web site at [West Texas Organic Gardening](#).

Question? Suggestion? Tips?

Visit our Forums and join in with our other members for discussions, ideas, tips, or to ask a question.

Updates to the suggested plant varieties list are being done now. If you have a favorite vegetable variety that has done well for you, please visit the forum and share what you have learned.

[West Texas Organic Gardening Forum](#)

Links of Interest

A few links to some websites we believe you should have in your bookmark list

[The Environmental Working Group](#) - **The Environmental Working Group's mission** is to empower people to live healthier lives in a healthier environment. With breakthrough research and education, we drive consumer choice and civic action.

Their annual Clean 15 and Dirty Dozen report are consumer guides to produce and the best and worst in levels of contaminants from herbicides, pesticides and other man made toxins. You can get a free pocket guide to carry with you to the market.

The EWG test a wide range of products, watch dog agencies and research around the world to bring the latest research and findings on organic living. Add them to your bookmarks and sign up for their newsletters.

<https://www.ewg.org/>

Garden Gallery



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