

# Yesterday, today and tomorrow shrub

What to do when the hydrangeas stop flowering by July?

and playing by group rules can pay off.

I write a lot about the four-generation family women who influenced my gardening approach, but haven't given enough props to my dad's mom, a prim garden club flower judge who instilled an appreciation for striving for ideals. Her books of blue ribbons were proof that attention to detail

But she also had some pretty unusual shrubs in her McComb garden, many of which used to be more widely grown but gradually fell out of favor. One thing she emphasized is that it's good to have dependable summer flowering shrubs for when other plants were too hard to tend in our suffocating humidity.



**FELDER RUSHING**

I was raised with many familiar ones, including shrub roses, crape myrtles, oleander, and uber-fragrant gardenias whose scent, drawn into Mam-maw's stubbornly non-airconditioned house, would make us kids nearly swoon on sultry summer



**Rushing Grandmother's yesterday, today, and tomorrow shrub.**

nights. Still turns me a bit green.

She also had several different althaea, a below-zero hardy hibiscus often called rose of Sharon because it is native to the biblical Plains of Sharon. One was pure white with a splash of red, one was deep rose pink, and the other was lilac purple. We used to catch bumblebees in folded flowers.

As a child I learned that her Abelia was the go-to shrub for butterflies and hummingbirds; I don't know of another that has so many pollinators. Abelia has clusters of white or pink flowers and can be pruned hard to keep it in bounds (it flowers on new growth); it has several smaller hybrids with variegated or golden leaves, and a Chinese species with much larger flower clusters. All are tough enough to grow unassisted in cemeteries.

Her butterfly bush (Buddleia) was as good an attractor as any, but I was taught to regularly break off faded

flower stems to kick-start new flowering growth.

I wish highly-touted summer-flowering hydrangeas lived up to their hype, but even Endless Summer, which flowers nearly all summer up north and in England, shuts down in the heat and drought of our torrid summers; to get them to rebloom, water – a lot. Or grow in containers like most of us do Chinese hibiscus, where they get regular feeding and watering.

Another great potted flowering shrub in my grandmother's South Mississippi garden was the old-fashioned but freeze-sensitive "yesterday, today, and tomorrow" (Brunfelsia). Its flat flowers open as deep violet but gradually fade over three days to lavender and then white, so it always has some of each. You can gamble on it in central and north Mississippi by planting in light shade in a protected corner away from harsh winter winds. Ditto for the unusual red bottlebrush

shrub which can freeze in the northern third of the state if we ever have a normal winter.

Had it been available decades ago I'm sure my grandmother would have cherished a large shrubby Little Gem magnolia, which flowers nonstop up until a freeze in the fall. And I might have shared a rooted leaf pad from my summer-flowering prickly pear cactus; my favorite is a cold hardy thornless species.

Though not technically woody bushes, I still con-

sider large perennial lantanas and ornamental grasses as flowering shrubs. But even if those failed, I still have colorful glass bottle trees to give me summer shrub color.

Main thing is, my garden club grandmother proved that we can enjoy more than a double handful of dependable shrubs that flower into the Dog Days to keep spirits up - without having to actually go outside and fuss with them.

*Felder Rushing is a Mississippi author, columnist, and host of the "Gestalt Gardener" on MPB Think Radio. Email gardening questions to rushingfelder@yahoo.com.*

IN AND AROUND

## LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

There was an automobile accident up Highway 17 a few weeks ago. The four people were from Tchula. They had been to the village. One lady got killed on the scene of the accident. The other lady got her leg broke. I heard the two men got scratched up. The lady that died had some children. Let's pray that whoever takes her children will be good to them. I don't have any information on the driver of the other auto.

Jasmine Braxton is doing good. She went to her doctor in Jackson last Thursday for a check-up. Her grandfather, Mr. Lee Wright, got the medicine he needed.

Keep praying for Goldia Landfair. She's at home and says she feels a little bit better. However, she is still sick. Her sickness has nothing to do with COVID-19.

Katie Horton, of Tchula, went to the hospital to have lab work done on Thursday, June 25. Her results were good.

Vinell Williams was funeralized Saturday, June 27.

Buy fresh vegetables and fruits at the Farmers' Market. This year the producers will be located at the red and white building (old gas station) in front of BankPlus.

Let's make sure we put out a red bow to show that we are praying for the coronavirus to go away. According to the news it's getting worse; so, Holmes Countians and all people everywhere, please wear a mask and gloves. Use sanitizer and wash your hands often.

Please be careful on the Fourth of July. Practice social distancing and don't have large crowds at your barbeque.

Some of the people in and around Lexington are concerned about the cleaners being closed. They need their clothes. If the cleaners are not in operation, the lady needs to let people get their

clothes back, clean or dirty. She could put a return date in the paper and on the radio.

**Intended for 6-25-20**  
I should have put this in last week's news:

Loverne Wright Parker's niece was found dead in her house a few weeks ago. She lived in her father's, Albert Wright (deceased), house on Wash Bailey Road/Sunny Mt. community.

Vinell Williams passed Thursday morning, June 18. She was one of the lead singers for the William Singers. She was the sister of Rev. Robert Williams and the niece of Evangelist Cara Dixon Bridges. Keep the Williams family and the Dixon family uplifted in prayer.

"Happy Birthday" to Mrs. Mary Wesley and Mr. Coy Henderson. When we were having lunch at the multi-purpose building, they were two of my birthday pals.

"Happy Birthday" also goes out to Morris Morgan II. Mr. Henderson, Morris and I have the same birthday. We were born on June 26.

Masks sure can make people look different. But thank God some people are wearing them. On Monday, June 15, I saw Mr. Edward Saffold at the post office. In my mind, I kept saying "Looks like I don't know that man." He realized I didn't quite recognize him. He spoke and said, "I am Edward Saffold."

People in Holmes County, let's do like Mr. Saffold and wear a mask. I wear one every time I leave home. God bless the people that wear masks. It's my prayer that He changes the minds of the hard headed people. Please wear masks and gloves to church.

Mrs. Goldia Landfair is sick and in severe pain. Please pray that she will soon feel better and be relieved of pain. Remember the Bible says, "The prayer of the righteous availeth much."

### Bridal Registry

Nikki Merchant  
Trent Boutwell  
June 26

Eryca Edwards  
Andrew Gilmore  
August 8

### Peoples Drug Store

Court Square 834-2721 Lexington

### Bridal Registry

Laura Beth Kolb  
Taylor Burrell  
August 1

### Howell & Heggie Drug Co.

389 N. W. Depot St.  
Durant  
662-653-6441

2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
Sweethome Water & Sewer District  
PWS# 0269015  
June 2020

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identified potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Sweethome Water & Sewer District have received moderate susceptibility rankings to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Coreignald Patton, Operator at 662.613.0515. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at 201 Spring Street, Lexington, MS 39095.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2019, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we provided the following definitions:

**Action Level** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Level 1 Assessment** - A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/AQL	Unit Measure-ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
10. Barium	N	2018*	.0676	.0149 - .0676	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes, discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2015/17*	.1	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
17. Lead	N	2015/17*	2	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	2019	56000	No Range	PPB	0	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>								
81. HAA5	N	2019	3	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
82. THM (Total trihalomethanes)	N	2018*	7.06	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	N	2019	.9	-.4 - 1.5	Mgl	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

\* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2019.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. We did complete the monitoring requirements for bacteriological sampling that showed one sample with coliform present. There were no bacteria in the resamples.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The Sweethome Water and Sewer District works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

# CASH PLUS TITLE PLUS

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