

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes September 14, 2021

Clanton Recreation Center

- Pat Farmer, President, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.
- Pat Farmer welcomed members, interns and guests. July birthdays were recognized: Debbie Housner, Alan Reed, Lanell Baker and Elizabeth York.
- August Minutes approved as posted on website.
- Treasurer's Report—given by Pat Farmer for Audrey Giles. Beginning Balance \$10,095.28+\$00.00 deposits-\$25.43 cleared-\$604.62 outstanding=\$9.465.23 Ending Balance. Reconciliation attached.
- Pat Farmer introduced our speaker, Eric Schavey, REA Commercial Horticulture. The program was on Straw Bale Gardening. Eric explained the 10 day process for preparing the bale, how to plant and care for the plants. Consistent watering is key and about 1" per week or 2 ½ to 3 gallons per bale. Program handout attached. Eric donated the items he used for demonstration for a door prize: straw bale, ammonium sulfate, composted manure and cabbage transplants. He also recommended the Farming Basics App from Auburn-information on crops, insects, diseases, current prices for produce and even a soil test calculator.
- Pat Farmer talked about the party that we had August 30 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Master Gardeners in Alabama.
- Trisha Williams gave the Demo Garden report. Matthew Price is agreeable to any of the ideas to use the garden for programs and tours that Pat Farmer and Sharon Hosch discussed with him. Planning will continue. Next workday will be Wednesday, Sept 15.
- Gail Brooks told us that the Extension Office beds are in good shape and work days continue on Mondays.
- Pat Farmer requested volunteers for the Bee Keepers Symposium Kids Field Day on Friday, Sept. 17 at the Jeff State campus.
- Pat requested volunteers for the Helpline for Oct. 11 and Nov. 19.
- Trisha Williams notified membership that dues would be collected at the October and November meetings. Dues must be paid by Nov. 30.
- Adjournment-Pat Farmer dismissed the meeting at 11:00.

Members Present: 16

Intern: 1

Guest: 1

Speaker: 1

Total: 19

*Minutes submitted by Board Member Trisha Williams*

## Straw bale Gardening

### Directions:

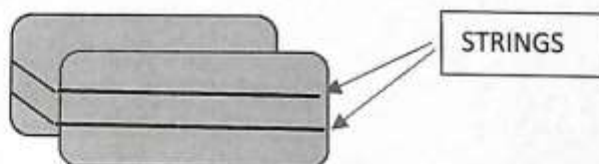
Step 1: Find a location that receives at least 5 hours of sun.

Step 2: Determine what plants you would like to grow and how many. You need this information so you know how many bales you will need. The list below provides the number of plants per bale:

Plant	No. Per Bale
Tomato	2
Peppers	3
Squash	2
Zucchini	2
Broccoli	3
Cabbage	3
Lettuce	2
Cauliflower	2
Bush beans	2

Step 3: Purchase your straw bales. Note do not use hay you need wheat straw bales.

Step 4: Place bales in the determined location making sure the bale is on its side.



Step 5: This is where the bale preparation starts

**Day 1:** Place bales in determined location and water the bale till it becomes saturated.

**Days 2-4:** Spread 1 Cup of Ammonium Sulfate evenly over the top of each bale then water in.

**Days 5-8:** Spread  $\frac{1}{2}$  Cup Ammonium Sulfate and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup 8-8-8 fertilizer evenly over the top of each bale then water in.

**Day 9:** Spread 1 cup 8-8-8 fertilizer and 2 cups of lime evenly over each bale and water in.

**Day 10: PLANT!!! Transplants work best in the straw garden.**

To plant take a blunt object and make an opening in the top of the bale large enough for your transplant to fit. Place transplant in hole and put two handfuls of topsoil around plant. Water plants.

Additional fertilizer may be needed during the growing season. Make sure to keep bale moist.

Any questions contact: Eric Schavey 256-547-7936