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## Eileen E. Hollander's Garden

Gardens are ephemeral. Mine has changed significantly over time. Today my garden is constantly evolving.

About twenty years ago, when I acquired my home and garden in Poplarville Mississippi, I took the MSU classes and became a knowledgeable Pearl River Master Gardener (PRCMG).

Initially, two clumps of pampas grass were at the corner of my single-story brick home and no plants were in the north-facing front. Four willow oaks dropping branches surrounded the back. A thorny rose greeted us on the east where the driveway enters the house. Large azaleas and camellias were in the distance on the East side of the driveway. Barren 10-foot-tall blueberry bushes, an apple tree and a pear tree were in the background on the west side of the house. In short, the only plant not in decline was a large fig bush on the south side of my house. Tall bahiagrass dominated.

During one PRCMG meeting at the Crosby Arboretum, Pat Drackett suggested plants that would make my entrance more inviting. I planted azaleas in front, moved the pampas grass to the north property border, replaced the rose with gardenias and installed a blueberry hedge. The old blueberries were rejuvenated by cutting them to 3 feet. and fertilizing.

Hurricane Katrina removed all but one of the willow oaks. Then two tornados took the other declining trees.

During PRCMGs visits, Dr. Eddie Smith demonstrated planting pear trees, Reggie Davis guided building a muscadine trellis and Dr. Eric Stafne taught pruning pecan, pear and muscadines.

Master Gardeners provide many opportunities to see beautiful gardens and nurseries, meet great gardeners, learn volumes and serve the community.

If you are interested learning more about the Master Gardener program, call 601-403-2280. Come join us and have fun!

By: Eileen Hollander, MSU Pearl River County Extension Service Master Gardener

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The photo of me taken by Kevin Hudson shows my pollinator garden containing Louisiana irises and deer resistant plants such as Lantana, Celosia, Porterweed, Salvia, Buddleia, Coreopsis and Mexican hat. A work in progress.



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## Pollinator Gardening

By: Phyllis Goodwin



As a Pearl River County Master Gardener, my concern for the future of our native pollinators led me to my style of gardening. I like to offer as much nectar and pollen as I possibly can, with as many native

plants as possible. Native plants hold up in the heat of our summers, usually require less water, and have more to offer to our local pollinators. My favorite pollinator garden is my raised bed filled with a good

quality topsoil and enhanced with compost and manure.

This year I have planted "Husker Red" Penstemon, Hyssop Blue, Cardinal Flower and Gulf Coast Penstemon to name a few. I like to use a timed-release fertilizer three times a year using the holidays,

Easter, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day as my reminders.

I do have several in-ground gardens throughout my yard planted with more native plants. However, I have planted several non-native flowering plants such as Pentas, which are originally from Africa. I consider Penta plants a magnet for butterflies; they love them. Lantanas are another good choice and came to us by way of Mexico.

When making an in-ground garden, I like to use half native soil and half garden soil. I also add compost and manure and then blend well. My native plants love this mixture.

You don't need a large area to create a pollinator garden. All you need are a few pots on your patio with selective plants.

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By: Phyllis Goodwin, MSU Pearl River County Extension Service Master Gardener



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