



TRI-COUNTY Electric Cooperative, Inc.

" A Commitment to Service and Savings "



**Planting Trees ••
It's Good for the
Environment,
Keeps You
Cooler in the
Summer, and
will Help Make a
Memory!**

With spring weather rapidly approaching, it's time to start thinking about the outside of the house and what can be done to make it more attractive. When giving consideration to various landscape options, also consider improving the thermal efficiency of your property. The hot Texas summer is only a few months away and strategic placement of trees and shrubs can help reduce cooling loads on your home. Proper placement of shade trees can help intercept the hot sun, keeping it off of walls, windows and roofs. Select a location that will allow the tree to mature to its full size. Avoid locating trees under power lines and service drops. That new tree might be six feet tall now, but in ten to fifteen years it could be standing thirty feet tall and come into contact with power lines. Deciduous trees will drop leaves in the fall, thereby allowing sunlight to assist in warming the home. Trees are a long-term commitment since they take several years to mature. Once they do, the impact on cooling cost can be substantial.

Placement of shrubs along exterior walls can have a similar impact on a shorter time line. Shrubs with prickly foliage can also discourage unwanted entry as they make access to windows more difficult. Soil conditioners like compost will revitalize soil and help it to maintain moisture levels. This reduces watering requirements and helps to prevent foundation damage caused by dry shrinking soil. Ground covers like wood chips also help to maintain moisture levels.

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When designing your landscape, consider the energy efficient options. And before you do any digging make sure you are clear of utility lines. State law requires contractors and property owners to notify DIG TESS two working days in advance before starting construction. They will contact all utilities in your area so that underground facilities can be properly marked. To notify DIG TESS simply call 1-800-344-8377. You will need your name and service address. They will provide you with a reference number in case a problem arises.

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**TEXAS
Weather
Often
Difficult to
Predict**

With the approaching Spring, the North Texas area will see an increase in thunderstorm activity. The recent storms should remind everyone of the possible danger associated with such atmospheric phenomenon. Even with today's sophisticated technology and early warning systems, thunderstorms frequently leave a trail of death and destruction. All the advanced warning systems in the world will not do any good if the information goes unheeded.

Spring storms develop when hot and cold air masses collide with each other. Storms building on these conditions can strike in the late evening hours when most families are sleeping. This makes it difficult for the National Weather Service to notify people through television and radio broadcasts. When you hear thunder late at night, it's a good idea to check with the weather service to verify the intensity of the storm and confirm that no warnings have been issued. Local radio stations like WBAP 820 do an excellent job of keeping the public informed on deteriorating weather patterns. Another modern way to verify weather conditions is through the Internet. The National Weather Service's address is:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/forecast>

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Simply type in your postal zip code and the latest weather alerts, satellite images and weather radar will display on you computer monitor.

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Take advantage of today's early warning systems because it can save lives. Make sure your family has a severe weather plan, and be prepared with flashlights, candles and a portable radio. Bathrooms and closets are one of the stronger rooms in the house because of the minimum ceiling area. Bathtubs offer protection from flying objects and a mattress or heavy blanket over the tub improves protection. It is far better to be over cautious during severe weather than unprepared.

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**Come Join Us at the 3rd Annual
COUNTRY SPIRIT JAMBOREE**

Entertainment By Granbury's own:



**Michael
Cote'**



Cancer Care Services
the caring place

April 21 st

From 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM

The Marvel's 4D Ranch

(aka Craig Morris Cutting Horse Ranch)

2.5 Miles East of Cresson on Hwy 377

Tickets: \$25 in advance \$30 at the door

Benefiting Cancer Patients In Hood County

Tickets available at Lake Granbury Area Chamber of
Commerce or by calling: 817-408-5623 or 817-573-1334



**Daylight Savings
Time Change the
Clock on March 11
and Change Those
Batteries Too!**

You remembered to change your clocks to daylight savings time but did you remember to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors? Its a good habit to get into when making that seasonal time change. You already have the step ladder out to reach that clock in the kitchen, so take a few extra minutes to replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide sensors. Once the new batteries are in, check the units out by pressing the test button. Make sure all family members recognize the sound of the alarm and discuss emergency exit plans with family members. Remember to include a meeting place outside the home so you know everyone is safe.

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It Pays To Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin and you will receive a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed below and make them aware of your discovery. **It pays to stay informed!**

**From The
Cooperative
Kitchen**



This month's recipe was provided by Sherry Roberts from Granbury TX. She will receive a Texas Co-Op Power Cookbook, compliments of TCEC.



**PEACH
FRENCH
TOAST**

1 stick of butter	Pepperidge Farm Sweet Buttermilk Bread
1 cup brown sugar	¼ cup chopped pecans
2 Tbs. Sour Cream	6 eggs
29 oz. Can peaches	1 ¼ cup of milk or cream
1 tsp. Vanilla	

Cook butter and brown sugar over medium heat until butter is melted. When it begins to boil, add sour cream. Stir with a whisk.

Cool in pan before pouring into baking pan. Drain peaches and cut into bite size pieces. Arrange peaches in butter mixture. Cube 2/3 loaf of buttermilk bread.

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Cover peaches and butter mixture with bread. Sprinkle pecans on top of bread. Mix together the eggs, milk or cream, and vanilla.

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Pour over bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Serves 10-12



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Central Headquarters Office (817) 444-3201 or (817) 523-7231

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