



TRI-COUNTY Electric Cooperative, Inc.

" A Commitment to Service and Savings "



Memorial Day May 25, 2009

Remember to say thank you for those who made the ultimate sacrifice

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields" Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

**We cherish too, the Poppy Red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
the blood of heroes never dies.**

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael and when she returned to France, made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women.

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This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit

war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their Buddy Poppy Program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans.

In 1948 the U. S. Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red three cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

Traditional observance of Memorial day has diminished over the years. Many Americans have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored and neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. We must remember that freedom is not free. We must honor and pay respect to those who served and died fighting for our freedom.

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Having had the privilege of picking up a son returning once from Iraq and another time from Afghanistan, I have witnessed the incredible courage of our young men and women who voluntarily leave their mothers, fathers husbands, wives, children and friends to defend their country. As we awaited the return of our son, the airport terminal was filled with soldiers who would be returning to duty to replace those returning home. The uncertainty for what the future would hold was etched in each of their faces as they watched their soldier gather their gear and prepare to board the aircraft.

As we looked around the terminal we saw faces of every nationality, both women and men, ready to do their duty and possibly make the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

That gave me a new perspective on America, the land of the free and home of the brave. It is that bravery that we honor and remember each Memorial Day.

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Why Plant A Tree?

**It's Environmentally Sound
Good Landscape Addition
Provides Cool Shade that
With Time will Reduce Cooling
Loads on your Home**



Spring and fall are the best times to plant most trees. If you decide to plant a tree in the summer, make sure you water it frequently enough. Most trees grow best in well-drained soil. It's a good idea to perform a simple test in the location you'll be planting the tree to see how well the soil drains. Before opening a hole, make sure to contact 1-800-344-8377 or 1-800-DIG-TESS to verify the location of underground utilities. Once utility locations have been marked, select a location and dig a large hole. Take your garden hose and fill the hole with water. If you still have standing water in the hole after 24 hours, shop for a tree that can tolerate wet conditions. In addition, plant the tree shallower to avoid suffocating the roots.

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Planting your tree too deep can suffocate the roots and contribute to a condition called "stem girdling roots" in which roots wrap around the base of the trunk and choke off the supply of water and nutrients. The top of the trunk flare should be slightly above the level of the soil when you're through planting.

Dig the hole just deep enough to support the root ball and leave the top of the root flare above ground level. In good, loose soil, there's no need to dig the hole any wider than about 1-1/2 times the diameter of the container. If the soil is hard to dig and seems compacted, enlarge the planting hole to about three times the diameter of the pot but keep the depth the same. The extra volume of loosened soil will make it easier for the new roots to get established. It's not uncommon for the roots of container-grown trees to begin circling around the inside of the pot. To prevent encircling roots from strangling the plant later and to encourage them to grow out into the surrounding soil, slice them with a utility knife or tear the roots loose with your fingers and spread them in the planting hole. New roots will grow from the cut ends, helping to anchor the tree.

A 3- to 4-in. deep layer of wood chips or other organic mulch helps hold in moisture and keeps weeds and grass from taking root. It also serves as a buffer zone to protect the tree trunk from lawn mower and string trimmer damage. Keep the mulch about 6 inches away from the trunk to allow air to circulate around the trunk and prevent bark diseases.

Most experts agree that a tree will develop a stronger trunk if it's allowed to sway in the breeze. On the other hand, too much movement can tear new roots and prevent the tree from getting established. And in windy areas, trees with lightweight rootballs can blow over. If you plant the tree in an area that's exposed to wind, stake it for the first year. Potted trees are more likely to need staking because their root balls are not as heavy as those of balled and burlapped trees. It's better to err on the side of caution, since it only takes about half an hour to drive stakes and add ties.

Multiply the diameter of the trunk by 2 to arrive at the number of gallons of water to use. Then water every day with this amount for the first two weeks. A tree with a 2-in. diameter trunk, for example, would require 4 gallons of water every day for two weeks. Then water every two or three days for the next two months. After that, water once or twice a week for 12 to 18 months. As the tree gets bigger, increase the amount of water accordingly. Pour the water slowly over the root ball. Use less water and water less often if you have poorly drained soil.

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Central Headquarters Office (817) 444-3201 or 1-800-367-8232
Southwest District Office (817) 279-7010 or (817) 279-7011
Northeast District Office (817) 431-1541
B-K District Office (940) 888-3441
Internet: www.TCECTEXAS.COM

From The Cooperative Kitchen



This month's recipe was provided by Sharon J. Cobbs from Springtown. She will receive a 60 Years of Home Cooking Cookbook, compliments of TCEC.



AZARS STRAWBERRY PIE

... Pastry Ingredients ...

- 1 1/2 - Cups of Flour
- 1/2 - Cup of Mazola Oil
- 1 - Teaspoon of Salt
- 2 - Tablespoons of Milk
- 1 1/2 - Tablespoons of Sugar

Blend ingredients for crust and press into a 9 inch pie pan. Bake crust at 400 degrees for approximately 10 minutes.

... Filling Ingredients ...

- 1 - Quart of Strawberries
- 1 - Cup of Sugar
- 3 - Tablespoons of Cornstarch
- 2 - Tablespoons of Corn Syrup
- 1 - Cup of Water
- 3 - Tablespoons of Strawberry Jello
- 1 or 2 - Drops of Red Food Coloring

Slice strawberries and place them in the baked pie shell.

Mix the cornstarch, sugar, water and corn syrup in a sauce pan. Cook mixture until clear and thickened. Add red food coloring and strawberry Jello. Blend well and pour over the strawberries inside the pie crust.

Place the pie in the refrigerator and chill. If you like, top with Cool Whip and you have a tasty colorful treat good for any occasion.

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