

IN THE MOOD FOR PEPPERS?

By BARBARA BUCKLEY

[Fort Bend County Master Gardeners](#)

Texas Master Gardeners of Fort Bend County are excited about two new peppers: Sugar Rush Peach and Emerald Giant. FBMG's Barbara Buckley describes Sugar Rush Peach as a "sweet, hot pepper." It is reported to have a sweet, citrusy, smokey flavor.



Sugar Rush Pepper averages between 50,000 and 100,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU), placing it between Thai, Pequin and Habanero peppers. The 3-inch long peppers start off green, changing to a peach color as they ripen. Plants can reach 5' and under ideal conditions can produce nearly 40 large peppers.

"Emerald Giant is a big green pepper that ripens to red," said Buckley, "and it's sweet." The largethick-walled peppers are great for stuffing and are easy to grow.

Two other sure to be popular spring garden plants are Lemon Balm and Bush Basil.

- Lemon Balm is an evergreen perennial that will attract pollinators to the garden. It is a good companion plant with other herbs such as rosemary, mint and basil.



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- Bush Basil has smaller leaves than the common Genovese basil. Aggie Horticulture says basil is an easy to grow annual herb, which produces tiny white flowers. Basil also is a good companion plant for tomatoes.

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