



**Texas Master Gardener Association
2008 INDIVIDUAL MASTER GARDENER AWARD**

Association Membership/Size: Med.Large (Small, Medium, Med.Large or Large)

Number of Members: 162

County: Victoria

Address: 942 Foster Field Drive

City: Victoria, TX **Zip** 77904

Phone: 361-575-4581 **Agents e-mail:** j-janak@tamu.edu

Name of Master Gardener: Roy Cook

Kay Dillingham jamesandkay@eathlink.net

Name(s) of person(s) submitting the nomination e-mail

Joe Janak, Victoria County Extension Agent – Ag/NR

Name of County Extension Agent or County Program Coordinator

THIS SUBMISSION SHALL NOT EXCEED TWO (2) PAGES TOTAL.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL MASTER GARDENER (10 pts)

In 150 words or less please describe the Individual Master Gardener.

Roy Cook, a member of the 2004 Master Gardener class, has been a positive example through his eagerness to use his knowledge to educate other Master Gardeners and the community. As Chairman of the Greenhouse Committee, Roy has planned the selection and production of over 4000 plants from seeds and cuttings for two plant sales and for use in the Victoria Educational Garden (VEG). Not only has he mentored the committee members in plant propagation he has also helped educate children, working with 4-H youth and also adults through presentations and newspaper articles on horticultural topics. Roy not only is a leader, but he also is willing to help others. No job is too big or too small for Roy. As Chairman and Co-Chairman of VEG, he has contributed to its development and expansion both creatively and physically. In 2008, he contributed over 700 hours volunteering on many different projects.

**Please answer the questions as they relate to the 2008 entry year.
VALUE 10 POINTS EACH**

1. List and describe programs & projects in which the nominee participated.

As Chairman of the Greenhouse Committee, Roy has planned the selection and production of over 2000 plants from seeds and cuttings for each of two plant sales and for use in the Victoria Educational Garden, VEG. He also helped label and transport these plants to the sale location. During the two plant sales, he helped customers select appropriate plants and answered their questions. Roy has participated in setting up classes for 4-H groups on various horticultural topics. For one 4-H member, he went to the member's home and helped design and develop a vegetable garden project which was a feature story in the newspaper. Roy has given presentations on propagation and container vegetable gardening to Garden Clubs in Victoria and surrounding towns. He helped produce the brochure for the Home Product Show in Victoria and gave a presentation on Growing Tomatoes. Roy helped set up the Master Gardeners' information booth at the Devereux Treatment Center Garden Celebration and answered questions about gardening and the Master Gardener Program. He has given group tours of the VEG and has worked with the maintenance and development of the VEG as a Co-Chairman. Articles written by Roy for the Victoria Advocate Newspaper's Gardeners' Dirt column include **Growing Green Beans; Heat Loving Vegetables; All You Need to Know about Onions and Garlic; and Vegetable Growing for the First Time Gardener**. Roy participated in the JMG Plant Sale by answering plant questions at the two day sale. He represented the Victoria County Master Gardeners as a State Director. During the Master Gardener Training Classes he helped with the hands-on propagation class and helped to set up the facility for the Master Gardener Class Graduation.

2. Describe abilities related to working individually & in groups with Master Gardeners and Texas AgriLife Extension.

Roy's position as Greenhouse Chairman necessitates his working independently as well as providing motivation for those on his committee. He is independently responsible in his care of the greenhouse plants and at the same time he is able to encourage committee members to propagate and continually replot the thousands of plants raised. His eagerness to help and his knowledge of gardening make Roy an excellent team player. His ability to motivate and work well within different groups is demonstrated by his work with the children on garden tours and with 4-H groups. His self-motivation is further illustrated in his preparation for the presentations he gives in the community and in the newspaper articles he writes. Roy is always willing to help Extension and other Master Gardeners with projects. Roy has encouraged many adults to join the Master Gardeners including his wife, Lupe.

3. Describe participation in activities that promote Master Gardeners & Texas AgriLife Extension

Roy promotes Extension and the Master Gardeners through the informative presentations he gives to Garden Clubs and 4-H groups. The knowledge and love of gardening Roy brings to his public appearances at plant sales, garden celebrations, and home shows reinforces a positive impression of Extension and the Master Gardeners. Roy is generous in sharing his knowledge of propagation to fellow Master Gardeners; starting with Master Gardener training classes and continuing with the greenhouse workers. Roy also promotes Extension and the Master Gardener Program through his educational and entertaining newspaper articles of which he has written four this year. He further supports these two programs by leading VEG garden tours.

4. Hours contributed to Master Gardeners in 2008.

Roy contributed a total of 755 hours raising and caring for plants in the greenhouse, participating at two plant sales, researching, writing and preparing news articles and talks, representing Texas AgriLife Extension and the Victoria County Master Gardeners at events, and working in the VEG.