



by Shelley S. Cramm  
Hackberry Creek Resident

*"Everyone under their own vine and fig tree"* is a poignant Bible verse made melodious by playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda in the *Hamilton* production. Did you catch the show this summer when it debuted on Disney+? The historical musical came to every subscribing household, helping those of us homebound to celebrate the 4th of July. These momentous words sung in the second act expressed George Washington's hope to establish our nation as a safe haven for all.

Thanks to the Southern Living Plant Collection, two hybrids of vine and fig tree make it easier than ever to cultivate these plants and create a monument to security and peace in our own yards. This trusted brand recently introduced RazzMatazz™ Seedless Table Grape and "Little Miss Figgy" Dwarf Fig tree, with disease resistance and manageable growth habits to help you invite a neighbor to sit under your own vine and fig tree.

*"On that day," declares the Lord of Armies, "each of you will invite your neighbor to sit under your vine and fig tree."* (Zechariah 3:10 GW)

What a precious gesture for Hackberry Creek neighbors to plant vines and fig trees, carrying out these holy words in our home gardens. Our neighborhood nursery, Grow It Land Designs, is standing by with ready stock, a longtime supplier of Southern Living Plants. "Miss Figgy is really hardy, really easy to care for...and it's adorable!" says Melissa Gaudy, Retail Manager for the shop on Denton Tap Road.



Grow It Land Designs is located on Denton Tap Road in Coppell.

Considering the unrest our nation has been enduring, it is not a make-believe escape to the yard to sit under your own vine and fig tree: it is a spiritual return, a millennial prayer!

### *Vine and Fig Tree Metaphor*

Picture a gardener's routine of cultivating vines and fruit trees—a deliberate pace, attentive movements of watering, pruning here and there, pulling weeds, brushing leaves free of pests—all a summer's work of watching over, directing growth, waiting. In due time, fruit matures, becoming deep purple-hued and tasty. Sweet treats bringing the satisfaction growing your own!

This work's personal nature, gardener to plant, conveys the significance of individual care and ownership. The metaphor implies personal growth, improvement, flourishing productivity side-by-side thriving livelihoods among neighbors and friends, fellowship among the fruits.

### *Security and Peace*

"Under your own vine and fig tree" symbolizes security and peace. In the mentions of this metaphor in the Bible, tranquil is the context—freedom from terror at the national level interdependent with prosperity at the local level. Fruitful citizen homesteads characterized the peace of King Solomon's reign: *Judah and Israel lived in security, each man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.* (1 Kings 4:25 LEB)

Likewise, the prophet Micah told of the day coming when war would cease, swords would be repurposed into plowshares, and: *Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.* (Micah 4:4 NIV)

Considering the unrest our nation has been enduring, it is no make-believe escape to the yard to sit under your own vine and fig tree: it is a spiritual return, a millennial prayer! It is hope in age-old words to yield sure results: *As the rain and snow come down from heaven and stay upon the ground to water the earth, and cause the grain to grow and to produce seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry, so also is my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It shall accomplish all I want it to and prosper everywhere I send it. You will live in joy and peace.* (Isaiah 55:10-12 TLB)

How comforting to know that in this time of sheltering at home, working and taking care of our yards and gardens have national importance as conveyed in the Scriptures. Fall is the perfect time to plant this pair, letting their roots get established months before summer's heat.



## RazzMatazz™ Seedless Table Grape



Discovering RazzMatazz™ was the opportunity I have been watching for—an entry point to the mysterious world of vine-dressing. I needed a beginner's invitation to cultivate grapes! RazzMatazz™ is bred for dependable performance, flowering and producing several crops from late spring through the fall, with good disease resistance.

*This is my first season growing RazzMatazz™. I planted the vine as a focal point between our raised beds, which sadly turned out to be too shady. Full sun would have yielded bigger, more plentiful grapes, so I will be transplanting it this fall.*

## Little Miss Figgy Dwarf Fig



Little Miss Figgy is an excellent choice for growing your own fig tree, especially if you prefer patio gardening. This dwarf tree reaches a modest six-foot height, unlike full size trees which billow to 20 feet or more. She is happy as a potted tree, loves the sunshine, and grows lush and leafy despite summer's heat.

*Little Miss Figgy transplanted very well into a larger pot, and endured my dog's chewing several of her bare winter branches. Fig trees lose their leaves with the first freeze and sprout again in late March.*

## Fruitful Prayer

Let this fruitful pair be our call to prayer, prompted whenever we see them in the landscape to persistently ask God for security and peace.

*Prayer: O Lord, restore our nation to having a common mind and a common purpose (1 Corinthians 1:10 CJB) and let the shelter of every citizen's garden be instrumental in moving us in the direction of national healing. May the hope of our country's founders carry on; we hope in you, O God, for safe haven for all. Reveal yourself under everyone's own vine and fig tree, and may your fellowship bond us together, neighbor to neighbor, creating a nation securely in your peace.*

Shelley Cramm is a regular contributor to *Hackberry Creek Living Magazine*. She is the author of *NIV God's Word for Gardeners Bible* and received the 2019 Media Awards Silver Medal of Achievement for Newspaper Article, presented by GardenComm: Garden Communicators International. Shelley loves to see the Bible's ancient words come to life in today's gardens.

## Acknowledgements & Credits

Visit [www.southernlivingplants.com](http://www.southernlivingplants.com) for more information on growing RazzMatazz™ Seedless Table Grape and 'Little Miss Figgy' Dwarf Fig

Grow It Land Designs, our neighborhood landscape service and local nursery, is ready to help you plant vines, figs, and other fall garden plants. Visit them at 794 South Denton Tap Road, Coppell, TX 75019. Call 972-462-7161 to check on plant supply. 'Little Miss Figgy' is in stock now, and RazzMatazz™ is expected next spring.

Visit Shelley's blog at [www.gardenindelight.com/blog](http://www.gardenindelight.com/blog) for more information on growing vines, fig trees, and many more plants of the Bible.

Many thanks to Plant Development Services, Inc., breeder for Southern Living Plant Collection, for supplying the vine and fig tree for this article at my request.

### Quotation Credits:

"...under their own vine and fig tree" sung by George Washington's character in "One Last Time," Act II of *Hamilton the Musical*, [www.hamiltonmusical.com](http://www.hamiltonmusical.com). All songs music & lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda ©5000 Broadway Music (ASCAP) administered by WB Music Corp. See *Hamilton, The Revolution* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter (New York: Hachette Book Group, 2016) pages 207-10 for Miranda's magnificent story of writing these lyrics.

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Features

Vishnu Reborn: a Novel.....	13
Everyone Under Their Own Vine & Figg Tree....	14
It all Started with a Park .....	17
Northeast Backcountry Discovery Ride.....	18
Best Summer Vacation Ever! .....	21

### Neighborhood News

Yard of the Month.....	9
Hackberry Creek Happenings .....	10
Food Truck Wrap-up.....	10
Scarecrow Contest Details .....	11
Women's Club Highlights .....	26
Men's Club Highlights.....	29

### HCHOA Info

Hackberry Creek News Update .....	4
Security Question of the Month .....	5
From the President.....	7
THE LOOP .....	8
Meet Your HCHOA Board Candidates.....	22
Security Committee News.....	31

### In Every Issue

Professional Listings .....	32
Welcome to Hackberry Creek .....	34
Real Estate Information .....	34

### OUR ADVERTISERS

The Marci Barton Group, DFW Associates ....	2	MacArthur Hills Senior Lifestyles .....	16
Jeff Covington Photography .....	5	Travers Orthodontics .....	20
Smiles of Las Colinas .....	5	Advanced Dental Care.....	24
Master Tech Service Corp.....	6	Castro's Tree Service .....	25
Ramon The Painter.....	9	All American Pest Management .....	25
Jeff Covington, Keller Williams, Dallas .....	9	Cargo Eye Care of Las Colinas .....	26
Side Door Taco .....	11	Irving Arts Center .....	28
Olympic Restoration Systems .....	12	Primrose School of Las Colinas.....	30
Baylor, Scott & White.....	12	Restaurant Expert Management .....	31
Jairo's Irrigation and Landscaping .....	16	Russ Smith, Ebby Halliday Realtors.....	35

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October/November 2020

**Joel  
Watson:  
Adventure  
Rider** *page 18*

**Food Truck Review** *page 10*

**Best Summer Vacation Ever!** *page 21*

**Meet Your HCHOA Board of  
Directors Candidates** *page 22*