

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

OCTOBER 2015

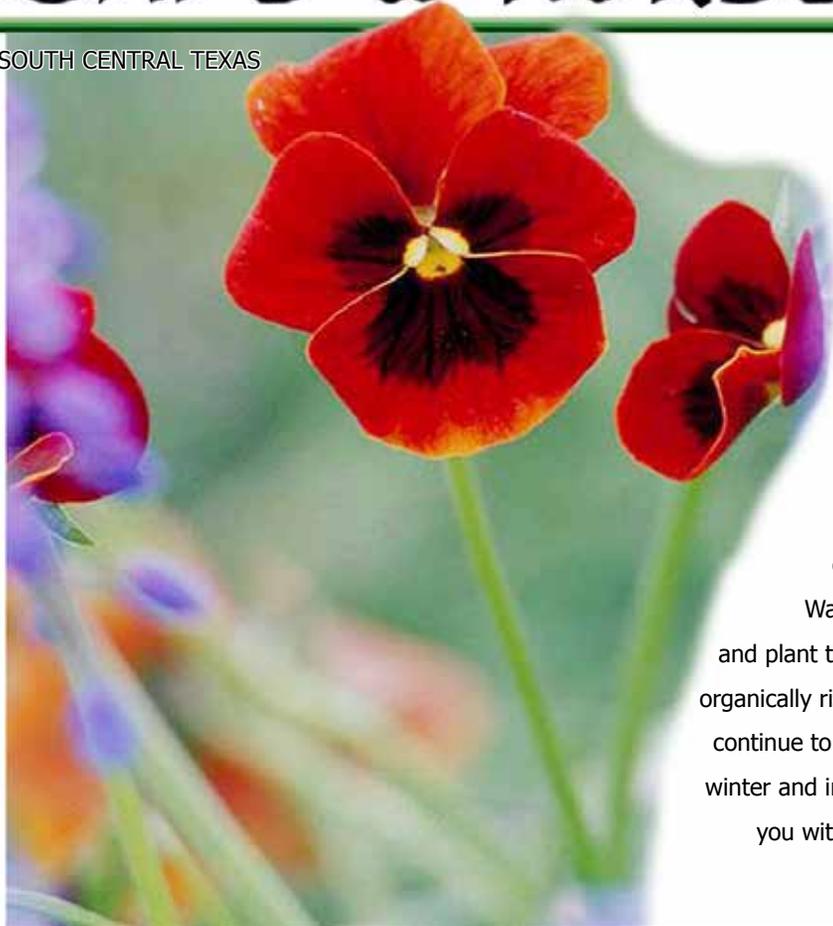
PLANT QUESTIONS

When should I move my roses to a sunnier spot? And do I need to prune them or do something special prior to moving them? Roses should be moved when the plant is dormant and before spring growth begins. Wait until January. After moving cut two-thirds of the top of the plant away to compensate for root loss. Fertilize in March.

Can you name some of the flowers that attract butterflies? Mistflower, milkweed, passion-vine, zinnias, cosmos, citrus, coneflower, pentas, coreopsis, calendula, sunflower, salvia, and lantana all attract butterflies. It is relatively easy in South and Central Texas to have at least one butterfly attracting plant in bloom 12 months of the year.

Can the leaves that have fallen early from my shade trees because of the dry weather be used as mulch? Yes, leaves make excellent mulch. Live oak leaves are my favorite mulch for the vegetable garden. Leaves can also be used in the compost pile.

If you have gardening or landscaping questions we have the answers. Just ask any of the friendly, knowledgeable, and experienced nursery staff at Milberger's Nursery.



Pansies bring bright color during our coolest months.

Wait until late October and plant them in full sun with organically rich soil and they will continue to grow and bloom all winter and into spring providing you with color from the fall into the spring.

GARDENING EXPERTISE

Fall Annuals

By D. Hairlloyde, South Texas Garden Blogger

With cooler weather now here South Texas gardeners have the opportunity to plant hardy annuals that will provide us with beds that will be bursting with color in time for the holidays. Transplanting now will give new annuals time to expand their roots, sprout new stems and reach their full blooms by November. Cool season flowers such as alyssum, calendulas, lobelia, marigolds, pansies, snapdragons, stock, and violas will continue to flower throughout our typically mild winter. For fall color, you don't need to stop with flowering plants. Edible ornamentals like kale and chard are good winter growing plants. They can add more color and greenery to the garden in addition to providing a handy source of snacks; and they'll fit right in with your maturing pumpkins plumping up for use in that pumpkin pie you're planning for November.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

Our web site and the email version of this newsletter contain many color photographs, how-to-do-it diagrams, more complete articles, links to many gardeners references and many more answers to your gardening and landscape questions. Visit www.MilbergerNursery.com to sign up. We respect your privacy and we will not share your address or information with anyone not associated with this newsletter.

OCTOBER GARDENING EVENTS

Thurs., Oct 8 – 6:30 pm 'til 8p m

Hugelkultur! German Mound Gardening at the monthly meeting of the San Antonio Herb Society. Brian Gordon from Roots of Change Community Garden will be presenting this German gardening method at the San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N New Braunfels Ave. Free and open to the public. 210-826-6860 or mbelisle@satx.rr.com

Sat., Oct 17 – 10:30 am 'til Noon

Winter Color for your Landscape, a free Earh-Kind Education Seminar conducted by David Rodriguez, Horticulturist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. David will show you how to correctly select, properly plant and efficiently maintain blooms for winter color. These seminars are free and open to the public so bring plenty of questions and a notebook. At Milberger's Nursery. (210) 497-3760

Sat., Oct., 24 – 5:30 am, 'til 3:30 pm

Fall Rose Show presented by the San Antonio Rose Society. At the San Antonio Garden Center. Contact Murray Warner at 210-313-3371.

Sat., Oct. 31 – 10 am 'til 11 am

Pumpkin Painting for Kids. It's Halloween and time for painting pumpkins in our kids class. No sharp objects. We furnish the pumpkins and the paints. We will also have our awesome Pumpkin Patch where you can take photos as well as our Spook-Tacular Monster Maze, Terror Train and our Halloween Boo-Tique. Milberger's Kids Gardening Class is designed for children five to ten years of age. FREE but space is limited. Call to reserve your kid's spot. 210-497-3760

**Find more Gardening Events – visit
www.MilbergerNursery.com**



To find us:
Take the Bulverde Exit off of Loop 1604. The entrance to Milberger's is next to the Valero gas station.

Milberger's Landscape Nursery

Open 9:00 to 6:00 Monday to Saturday
And 10:00 to 5:00 on Sundays

3920 North Loop 1604
San Antonio, TX 78247
(210) 497-3760

Or on the World Wide Web at
www.milbergernursery.com
nursery@milbergersa.com

Milberger's Nursery October Features

Autumn in South Texas

IT'S THE BEST SEASON
FOR PLANTING

Trees & Shrubs

Bedding Plants

Garden Vegetables



Scariier than Ever!

Milberger's Boo-TIQUE & PUMPKIN PATCH



Saturday and Sunday

October 24 & 25 Milberger's
HALLOWEEN WEEKEND

EMPLOYEE COSTUME CONTEST

FREE FOOD AND FUN



Bring your kids or all ages and
let them run through our

Monster Maze

ride **The Terror Train**

or take a memorable photo

in our **pumpkin patch.**



Watch for our weekly sale specials in

The San Antonio Express-News

or at

www.MilbergerNursery.com

Gardening South Texas on the air at KLUP (am 930)

Saturday and Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To have your gardening questions answered during show hours ONLY

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Our Writers have the answers: **Dr. Jerry Parsons** is a well known Horticulture Specialist who is retired from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in San Antonio; **Dr. Calvin Finch** is the Urban Water Program Director for the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources. The Gardening Newsletter for South Central Texas is edited by Marc Hess mhess@hctc.coop.

GARDENING EXPERTISE

Fall Planting Season

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Soil preparation is critical for annuals. The key to a larger, healthier plant is to grow a stronger, healthier root system, and that begins with soil preparation when you plant. These beds often have good soil because they are worked more often, but organic matter that makes the rich soil is constantly breaking down and needs to be replenished. Adding new compost or soil conditioner every time you plant will help to keep that soil workable. Turning the soil before planting not only incorporates organic matter, but it also breaks up the clay soils that form clods after recent rains, improving aeration and drainage in these beds. New plants will need good, well-drained soil for tender roots to quickly expand.

Spacing is important. Too much distance between plants produces a polka-dot effect of



Fall Garden Mums make a classic fall blooming perennial. Flowers are available in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. They make a dazzling fall display. Select smaller mums with tiny buds if you want color during the holidays. Those in full bloom will have aging flowers come Thanksgiving. However, if you clip off the dead flowers, you should get a second blooming in late winter because they will initiate new flower buds due to our short day-lengths.

“Annuals should be planted in mass to make a strong statement in the landscape. Take one or two species of annuals and fill the flower bed. Don't plant one of this and two of that and expect to stop traffic with your landscape.”

~ Dr Jerry Parsons, Celebrity Horticulturalist

individual plants, while planting too close may increase the risk of fungal and bacterial diseases due to poor air circulation. Read the tags to determine the best spacing for the varieties you select. Typically, most annuals are frequently planted at 6-8 inch spacing. You can also ask the South Texas gardening experts that you will find at Milberger's Nursery.

After planting, make sure you water immediately, especially if the soil is dry. Exposing young, tender roots to dry soil is a good way to stunt your starter plants. A quick watering right after planting will help them adjust to the new soil. Keep a close eye on watering the first few weeks, expecting these plants to initially need more frequent irrigation due to their small root systems at planting. Fertilizer also is important if you want a full plant with lots of flowers. Adding a slow-release fertilizer is a good way to provide nutrients for three months.

Visit our nursery to find the winter blooming plants that will thrive in your landscape. Take a look at our web site www.milbergernursery.com or look for our ads in the **San Antonio Express-News** to find which plants are on sale. For expert advice on plants and trees and take advantage of the growing season in South Texas' "Second Spring."

CONTAINER GARDENING

Texas Natives in Containers

From the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Texans who may have limited garden space and for those who find their teeth grinding while trying to get a shovel through a few millimeters of hard baked Texas clay may find potted plants a more rewarding way to garden. Container gardens in groupings or as individual specimens can dress up balconies, create borders and be placed as accents in existing gardens. They are also mobile: you can change your mind about a plant's position as

often as you'd like without disturbing its delicate root system, and as arrangements transition into their off-season, they may be replaced with fresh material. Transportability allows gardeners to protect plants from weather extremes including hot sun and freezing temperatures.

For a given group of plants, pots also help maintain specific growing requirements such as soil type, pH, and moisture levels. If your landscape is

designed to thrive without supplemental water you can still pamper a few pots of fern, horsetail, or columbine. Containers also provide the opportunities to grow plants that may be native to your general area and climate, but that may prefer different soils than what you have in your yard.

In gardens with lush, billowing vegetation, small, delicate plants such as scarlet pea, lace cactus, Dutchman's breeches and blue-eyed grass may be overwhelmed. A dish (shallow pot) garden is often just the right solution. These same garden miniatures may also be better viewed in vessels mounted at eye level.

If the pot is to stay put for a while, a grouping of plants looks best when a variety of bloom periods, textures and forms can be selected.



The beauty of container gardening is that you can move your gardens around as they bloom or as the seasons change. Better yet, containers will conserve water better than soil will so maintenance is a little less intensive.

FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING

Vegetables All Winter

By Dr. Calvin Finch

Many gardeners think the cool weather vegetable garden is superior to the spring garden. It certainly can be productive. Now is the time to plant the vegetables to harvest through the winter and into early spring. Here are a few choices to consider. Some do well in containers if you have enough sun on your patio. All vegetables do best in full sun.

Broccoli has emerged as the most popular winter vegetable. Plant transplants now and you will be harvesting heads before Christmas and until February. Broccoli is a very nutritious and productive vegetable.



Shallots are a cool-weather vegetable usually grown from cloves, not seeds. The shallot is a member of the onion family, a very hardy biennial grown as an annual. Shallots grow to about 8 inches tall in a clump with narrow green leaves and roots that look like small onions, about ½ inch in diameter at maturity. Shallots are more delicate flavored than regular onions. Young outer leaves can be used like chives.

“Fall vegetable crops are categorized as long-term and short-term crops based on the cold tolerance of the vegetables. Plant short-term, frost-susceptible vegetables together, so they can be removed after being killed by frost.”

~ David Rodriguez , County Extension Agent-Horticulture for Bexar County.

Carrots are planted by seed. They are also very nutritious and productive. Carrots can be harvested as you need them. They will last until late spring and they are not usually bothered with insects or diseases.

Leaf lettuce is one of the best vegetables to grow in containers because it is small and very decorative. The toughest thing about growing lettuce is to get it to germinate. Lettuce will re-grow if you harvest it leaf by leaf and leave some leaves on each plant as the season progresses.

In my opinion, **English peas** are the most difficult of the winter vegetables to grow. Our weather is often too hot or too cold to get good germination and/or harvest a crop.

Radishes are the fastest winter vegetables to produce a crop. The seeds germinate in three – five days anyone can be harvesting the crisp roots in three weeks. Gardeners that like to have fresh radishes on their table all winter will plant a row every four weeks.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Essential Tips for Fall Fertilizing

By Roger Cook

Fall is here and it's time to fertilize. Why now? Taking the time to fertilize in the fall will strengthen your plants' and lawn's roots, giving them a strong base on which to thrive next spring.

The first thing to understand about fertilizer is the formula, which is represented by three numbers, such as the common 5-10-5. The first number represents nitrogen, which promotes lawn blade and foliage growth; the second number stands for phosphorus, which helps root growth; and the third for potassium, which promotes cell function and absorption of trace elements. Start with your lawn and with that taken care of, turn your attention to your plants and shrubs. By now, perennials are starting to fade but they will benefit from 0-20-0 super phosphate fertilizer scattered around the plants at recommended doses and lightly cultivated into the soil. Next spring you'll have stronger plants with more flowers.



A last dose of fertilizer before the winter can make all the difference next spring. Take the time this fall to fertilize your trees and shrubs using the same Winterizer fertilizer which is recommended for grasses. Tree and shrub health is important and fertilization at the proper times insure tree and shrub health.

Fall is also a great time to fertilize shrubs and trees. In my opinion, all trees and shrubs need fertilizer, because most of them are located in mulch beds that use up nitrogen as they decompose. In addition, every fall we rake leaves off these beds,

depriving plants of the nutrients that decomposing leaves would traditionally release. To compensate, I recommend applying one to three pounds of slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of bed and cultivating lightly. (To figure out the exact amount of fertilizer you'll need, calculate the square footage of your beds and consult

with your local garden center.) I prefer fertilizing trees in late September and early October to promote root growth. These nutrients will still be in the soil come spring when plants start to grow. If you have a tree or shrub that does not flower well, a dose of super phosphate will help promote flower growth. However, if the plant is not located in the right spot, all the super phosphate in the world won't make it flower.

OCTOBER GARDENING AND LAWCARE TIPS

Growing in South Texas' Second Spring

By Dr. Jerry Parsons

October is a great time for gardening and landscaping. Many plants can be set out now, and this is the perfect time to be replacing plants lost due to the summer drought.

Plant Flowers: The most popular of the cool season flowering annuals to be set out now are pansies. There are so many types and colors of pansies it might be hard to pick just one. There are pastels shades, varieties with no faces, and miniature flowers, so you should have no trouble finding one you like. One tip for flowering annuals – the brighter the color, like reds or yellows, the easier they will be seen from a distance. Blues are best viewed up close.

Besides pansies, other bedding plants that can be planted now include pinks, dianthus, flowering cabbage and kale, snapdragons, violas, and calendulas.

Wildflowers and seeded annuals like California poppy, oriental poppy, larkspur and bluebonnets should be sown early this month.

October is also a great month to divide and plant spring-blooming perennials like native columbines,

daylilies, phlox, Louisiana and bearded irises, dianthus, coreopsis, coneflowers and daisies. If you have extras after dividing, give to or trade with a gardening friend or neighbor.

Trees and Shrubs: The fall season is also a perfect time to establish new trees and shrubs. Plants set out now undergo less stress, and their roots have months to grow and become established before spring growth begins and summer heat and drought arrive next year.

Fertilizer: October is time for the most important lawn fertilization of the year – application of a winterizer fertilizer to condition the grass for winter survival. Wait until the lawn grass slows growth and mowing every two weeks is adequate before applying. A light application of garden-type fertilizer will boost annual and perennial flowering plants.

Grass: Tall fescue and ryegrass can also be planted in early October. It is too late to sow Bermuda or centipede seed. Beware that armyworms could quickly devour newly sprouted ryegrass.

For more detailed and complete Gardening Tips from Jerry Parsons go to our newly redesigned website: **www.MilbergerNursery.com** and follow the newsletter link that reads **"Monthly Gardening Tips."**

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE FREE

Subscriptions to Milberger's Gardening Newsletter for South Central Texas are free, compliments of Milberger's Landscaping and Nursery. The newsletter is published at the beginning of each month.

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Milberger's Tree Lot

has the largest selection of healthy, well rooted, ready-to-plant-trees In the area. Fresh new shipment of fruit trees have just arrives and are ready to plant.



Cyclamen is a shade loving winter flowering plant that blooms continually until May. It is a wonderful plant in containers and extremely unique in the winter landscape. They look delicate, but cool-weather cyclamen are actually tough soldiers on the planting fields. They spend part of the year in dormancy, and when conditions are right, they stand at attention. You can find them at Milberger's Nursery in red, white and an assortment of rich pastels in standard and miniature sizes.