

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

JULY 2016

PLANT QUESTIONS

We planted Asiatic jasmine and fought the weeds only to lose the battle against the deer. What groundcovers are deer-proof? In some neighborhoods Asiatic jasmine may be deer proof. Another good choice is prostate rosemary. In my neighborhood dwarf Chinese holly makes a good groundcover that deer do not eat.

Can fire-ant bait be safely used around vegetable plants? It can, but should be used around the outside of the garden according to label instructions.

My impatiens have deposits of "salts" on the stems. Is this natural and what is it called? These "grains of sugar or salt" are honeydew secreted probably by aphids. Use a general purpose insecticide and insure complete and thorough coverage and you should eliminate your problem.

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.



Blue Princess Verbena is a butterfly attracting, easy care perennial that has masses of beautiful, lavender blue flowers. The 'Blue Princess' has a trailing habit which makes it ideal for retaining walls, ground cover or hanging baskets. Although technically a perennial plant, the verbena hybrids are usually grown as annuals.

SUMMER GARDENING EXPERTISE

How Are Your Summer Superstars Looking?

While many plants and flowers seem to be fainting away, there are others that sing merrily along through the mid-summer heat. Some tough-as-nails flowering plants will provide the color that will bring excitement to your landscape while basking in the most intolerable summer heat. Although it has been a wonderfully cool spring and early summer, the hot weather is here. Hot weather cuts down the gardening opportunities, but there are some all-star performers that will do their best show during the blistering heat. They are blooming in area landscapes and can also be planted at this time of the year. These are Texas Superstar® plants. These are plants that have been tested extensively by the Horticulture Program at Texas A&M to and have proven to be outstanding performers in our Texas Landscapes.

(MORE SUPERSTARS 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.

JULY GARDENING EVENTS

San Antonio Rose Society Bring and Buy meeting; a flea-market sort of sale of rose-related items. It also is the annual July Ice Cream Social. Free but come prepared to buy. San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N New Braunfels. Contact Meg Ware 210-698-8440

Thurs., Jul 14 – 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Herb Society “Share” Meeting where members and guests are invited to share their knowledge and experiences about herbs, gardening, cooking and crafting with herbs. Free. San Antonio Garden Center on 3310 N. New Braunfels. Contact Mike Belisle mbelisle@satx.rr.com.

Sat., July 30 – 10am 'til 11am

Milberger’s Kids Gardening Class *Terrariums for Kids Your Kids* will learn how to create a tiny self-sustaining indoor garden called a terrarium. While working on this supervised, interesting and fun activity your kids will make a terrarium that they can keep and take home. Classes are free but call to reserve your place because spaces and supplies are limited. 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
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(210) 497-3760

Or on the World Wide Web at www.milbergernursery.com
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Milberger’s Nursery July Features



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or at
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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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GARDENING EXPERTISE

Texas Superstars®

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

July and August are the tough months for plants. If you select the proper varieties you will find many beautiful bloomers that thrive on the heat without much water.

Perennials: Water every other week in the absence of rainfall. Some perennials will naturally go dormant in the heat of the summer. This is normal so do not panic. Prune off spent flowers and the top one-third of the plant in mid-July. This dramatically improves flowering come fall.



The bowl-shaped blooms of Pride of Barbados always catch the eye. The blooms of **Pride of Barbados** shine in hot weather with terminal flower clusters showing an orange-red with a tinge of gold on the edges. Easy to grow in alkaline well-drained soils the Pride of Barbados one of the most attractive heat loving plants in the San Antonio area.

“Sunny borders are popular locations for flowers that do well in direct sun. When choosing plants for areas with full sun, it’s generally better to stick with native plantings whenever possible.”

Annuals: Summer is a great time for annuals, but annuals require more watering than perennials. A few exceptions to this rule: zinnias, periwinkle vinca, and cosmos. Water them four or five times and go on vacation.



Thyralis (or rain of gold) brings months of small but showy yellow flowers on an upright, evergreen 5- to 9-foot shrub. This drought-tough shrub needs very little water to be happy. It’s ideal to screen a view or add yellow accent flowers against other Texas Superstar® like purple-flowering shrubs like Duranta or near Texas sage (cenizo).

Ask the gardening experts at Milberger’s Nursery for more suggestions that will help get your garden into full bloom. You will find healthy plant stock, good advice and creative suggestions for your summer landscape and gardening needs from the experienced nursery staff. To see what is on sale each week visit our web site at www.milbergernursery.com or look for our ads in the **San Antonio Express News**.

SUMMER COLOR TIPS

Using Vines in Your Landscape

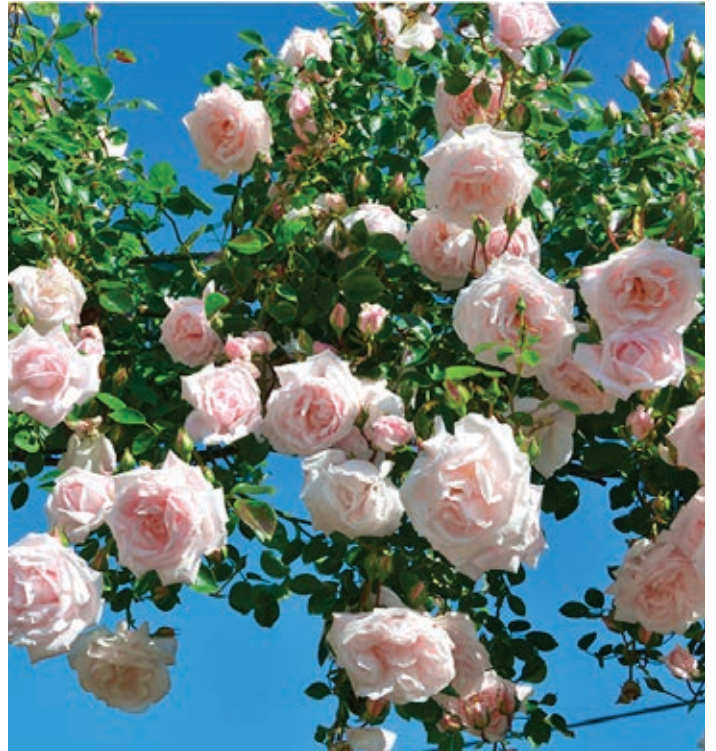
Dr. Calvin Finch

Vines are a group of landscape plants that we often overlook when planning our landscapes. Vines can be used to block unattractive views, to provide blooms, or to provide food and cover for wildlife. Consider the following list of vines for your central and south Texas landscape.

Crossvine is an evergreen plant with dark green leaves that will cover a six to 10-foot fence to block an unattractive view. Grow it in full sun and in the spring it will be covered with rust-red tubular blooms that are a favorite of hummingbirds. A few flowers appear throughout the year. Crossvine is a good xeriscape plant.



Butterfly vine is another evergreen vine to consider. It is less dense as a covering for a fence than crossvine, but has a showier bloom production. Its yellow flowers appear steadily through the summer and then form green seedpods that look like butterflies. It is drought-tolerant and deer do not eat it in most neighborhoods. Butterfly vine does fairly well in reduced-sun situations.



Climbing roses can make your fence an impenetrable barrier if security is a goal. They bloom best in full sun. Climbing roses are very aggressive but deer will eat them.

Carolina Jessamine has glossy green, evergreen foliage. A single plant covers less area than crossvine or butterfly vine. The waxy, yellow, fragrant flowers appear in early spring. Carolina jessamine forms a leaning mass rather than an attached covering so sometimes it can fall off a fence or structure. Deer do not eat it and Carolina jessamine has more shade tolerance than most of the other vines. It is also drought-tolerant.

Other vines that are available are coral vine, trumpet creeper, cat's claw (yellow honeysuckle) and passion vine. Some can be a problem because of their inclination to grow fast, high, and far. Visit milbergernursery.com for more information before you introduce any vines into your landscape.

A visit to Milberger's Nursery will help you get your spring garden going. You will find healthy plant stock that is selected to thrive throughout our South Central Texas summers. You will also find the good advice and creative suggestions for your specific landscape and gardening needs. To see what is on sale each week visit our web site at www.milbergernursery.com or look for our ads in the **San Antonio Express News**.

LANDSCAPING

Keeping Your Summer Beauty Blooming

The summer season can be rough on your plants and trees, but following a few simple rules will help make life easier for your green friends. Summer is here and that means the care we give our plants and trees will increase. It is in this season when many species, some in the midst of their flowering cycle, experience unrelenting summer sun, high temperatures and drought.

As always, plant selection is the most important step in garden design. But once your plants are in the ground, following a few simple rules will help make life easier for your green friends:



Using plants adapted to our hot climate is the best way to get vigorous plants with minimum care. Some plants just don't do well in the heat, they're difficult to maintain and expensive to replace. Plus, plants suffering the torment of harsh surroundings don't offer a pleasing appearance to any landscape. Native, heat-hardy or at least tolerant plants are the most practical choices for local landscapes.

“Regardless of how long and hot the summer will be, there is a right way and a wrong way to insure that your plants thrive and survive.”

~ James McAfee, Extension Turfgrass Specialist

- ☘ If you haven't yet, make sure the landscape beds are mulched. This helps retain moisture longer.
- ☘ If you garden in containers, move them to an area with more shade.
- ☘ Depending on sun exposure, especially in the afternoon, some areas of your landscape may require supplemental water.
- ☘ Water early in the morning or in late afternoon. Watering in the heat of the day is a waste.
- ☘ Water deeply and slowly to give the soil a chance to absorb water. Avoid excess water; this will damage plant roots.
- ☘ Don't leave the water hose sitting out in the sun – you'll have 25 feet of hot water and your hose will deteriorate faster.
- ☘ Don't cut the grass so short. Keep the mower blades a little higher than usual.

Finally, enjoy yourself while you're tending to your landscape. And remember to protect yourself by wearing appropriate clothing (to keep mosquitoes away) and hydrate yourself instead of the entire garden.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Showy Crapemyrtles for your Yard

By Ken Tilt, Auburn University

Crape myrtles are blooming all over San Antonio. They bloom in white, pink, lavender and red. Varieties range in size from under three feet tall to over 30 feet tall. Crape myrtles bloom from two to four months per summer depending on the variety and the weather. Delicate paper thin petals; beautiful large blooms in white, pink, red, or purple; lustrous green leaves forming a thick canopy of foliage; smooth, exfoliating bark; one of the favorite plants in a Southern garden; this is the Crapemyrtle. From the showy flowers to the superb bark and foliage, the Crapemyrtle is a favorite landscape plant throughout the South.

The Crapemyrtle is a very adaptable plant. It grows best in moist, well-drained soils; prefers full sun, and is drought resistant. Blooms are most abundant in soils low in nutrients, especially nitrogen, which can cause a lack of blooms. Throughout the bloom season, additional flowering can be stimulated by fertilization and the removal of faded blooms.

Crapemyrtles are a valuable landscape plant that can be used as a shrub or small tree, ranging in size from 18 inches to over 25 feet. As an asset to almost any landscape, the Crapemyrtle is a very beautiful specimen shrub or tree, often used in groups under planted with a ground cover. Crapemyrtles are commonly multi-trunked, however, single trunk specimens

are available. A canopy of foliage covers the top half of the plant, with the bottom half of the plant remaining leafless, revealing the beautiful bark. The leaves of the Crapemyrtle are a glossy medium green, turning yellow, red-orange, or red in the Fall. The smooth bark exfoliates, flaking off in irregular patches to reveal various shades of brown to gray.



One of the prominent features of the Crapemyrtle is the spectacular flowers, formed in large panicles ranging from 6 to 8 inches in length and 3 to 5 inches in width. Blooming from mid-June through September, the Crapemyrtle ranges in flower color from white to various shades of pink, purple, and red.

JULY GARDENING AND LAWCARE TIPS

Enjoying Your Summer Garden

By Dr. Jerry Parsons

Plant: For summer color and fall beauty, plant Texas' tough annuals and heat-loving tropicals in beds and containers. To brighten a landscape in the heat of the summer, plant lantana, bougainvillea, mandevilla vine, allamanda, hibiscus, salvia, periwinkle, marigold, zinnia, portulaca, purslane, copper plant, and Bush Morning Glory.

Prune: Roses (except climbing varieties) should be pruned early August to insure fall bloom. Remove one third of the bush with old canes, dead canes, spent bloom stems comprising the majority removed. This will stimulate vigorous new growth and abundant fall blooms.

Keep tree pruning to a minimum during summer especially on oaks.

Fertilize hanging baskets and other containerized plants regularly with a water-soluble fertilizer. If you failed to make a second application of fertilizer to your lawn in June and moisture is available, do so now.

On the Lookout: Insects to watch for include white flies, spider mites, webworms, tent caterpillars, aphids and grasshoppers. Symptoms of chinch bug damage can appear anytime in healthy St. Augustine lawns. Look for dry, burned-looking patches in the hottest parts of the lawn. Control with any contact insecticide.

Trees and shrubs may experience some leaf drop this time of year, caused by summer's heat and dry weather stress. There is nothing which can be done except mulch and hope for cooler weather. Fall webworms may appear on pecan, mulberry, ash, persimmon, and other trees.

Odd Jobs: Give special attention to water requirement of leafy garden plants such as coleus, caladiums and elephant ears during hot, sunny periods.

Mulch heavily. Maintain a heavy (two to four inches) mulch throughout your landscape and gardens to reduce water needs and eliminate weeding. Water plants when needed and not according to the calendar or day of the week. Water (soak) thoroughly rather than applying frequent light sprinklings.

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.

TO RECEIVE this free newsletter, complete this form and return it to **Milberger's Nursery** or by calling (210) 497-3760. You can sign up on-line at **www.milbergernursery.com**.

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