

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

JULY 2017

PLANT QUESTIONS

Spider mites have found our tomatoes. Is there an organic solution? Apply a spray of 2 tablespoons of seaweed extract in one gallon of water once per week to the underside of the leaves. Once the mites appear, increase the spray frequency to 2 times per week. You may want to pull your spring planted tomatoes in favor of new transplants planted before the end of July.

Which tough roses can we grow without having to spray every week? Belinda's Dream, Grandma's Yellow, Katy Road (Carefree Beauty) and Knockout are tough modern roses. All of the roses on the list qualify as Xeriscape plants in that they can survive with very little water.

What are the insects on our apples that are dark brown with long legs? They fly off when we get near. The insects you describe are leaf-footed bugs, one of the stink bugs. The apples can still be eaten but the stink bugs leave deformed fruit with scar tissue.

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.

Earth-Kind roses are one of the many plants available for SAWS WaterSaver Coupon. These roses do well in a variety of soil types, ranging from well-drained acid sands to poorly aerated, highly alkaline clays. Once established, these select cultivars also have excellent heat and drought tolerance.



WATER SAVER GARDENING

Gardening in Full Sun

By Sarah Galvan, SAWS Conservation Consultant

Gardening in central Texas in full sun is no joke. The plants you choose must be able to handle our unique soils, spontaneous rainfall, scorching summer heat and still look good doing it. The plants you pick for a sunny spot must be able to handle sporadic rainfall and scorching summer heat. SAWS WaterSaver Landscape Coupon can help you choose plants that are up to the task and reward you for the effort.

(MORE ON SAWS WATERSAVER COUPON 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

Mon., Jul 10 – 7pm

San Antonio Rose Society Birthday and Ice Cream Party with “Bring & Buy.” The Society promotes all aspects of rose culture in the San Antonio area through a variety of educational programs and publications, rose shows, and rose-related community projects. San Antonio Garden Center 3310 N New Braunfels Ave, San Antonio. FREE and public welcome. Murray Warner 210-313-3371

Sun., Jul 16 – 2 'til 4pm

San Antonio Daylily Society Meeting. Everyone is invited to learn about daylilies. You do not have to have a knowledge of daylilies or even grown them to come to our meetings. Education Building of the San Antonio Botanical Gardens. 555 Funston Pl, San Antonio. FREE. lutsenlo@juno.com or www.sadaylily.org.

Sat., Jul 29 – 10 'til 11am

Milberger's Kids Gardening Class, *Local Insects – The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.* Kids Gardening Class at Milberger's are hands-on, fun-in-the-garden workshops on gardening designed for children 5 to 10. Milberger's Nursery provides the materials and classes are free but call to reserve a spot because class size is 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
San Antonio, TX 78247
(210) 497-3760

Or on the World Wide Web at
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Milberger's Nursery July Features



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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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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 retired Director of Water Conservation and Technology at the Texas A&M University System. The Gardening Newsletter for South Central Texas is edited by Marc Hess at mhess@hctc.coop.

WATER SAVER GARDENING

Gardening in full sun

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

SAWS WaterSaver Landscape Coupon is the perfect, low-maintenance option for people hoping to use less water, improve the aesthetic of their home and provide a sanctuary for beneficial wildlife such as birds, butterflies and bees.

When choosing plant material for full sun, select some evergreen plants that provide year-round interest so your yard doesn't look barren in winter and to provide structural diversity. A few of my personal favorites are, spanish dragger, big bend yucca, possumhaw holly, mountain laurel, twist-leaf yucca, sotol, cenizo, red yucca, Havard's agave,



1 Apply online for \$100 Coupon
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2 - Remove Grass
 - (Minimum 200 sq. ft. area)
 - Cap sprinkler heads
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3 - Pick 15 plants
 - Redeem coupon
 - (Min. 1 gal. plants; 5 gal. trees)

For more information on this program, contact SAWS Conservation at 210-704-SAVE (7283) or email consult@saws.org.



The front yard of this San Antonio home was converted to xeriscape and features a array of water-tolerant plants such as roses, autumn sage, purple trailing lantana, indigo spires and blackfoot daisy.

gulf and Lindheimer's muhly grass and nolina. All of these are incredibly tough and many are native to central Texas. Now choose some sun-loving, colorful flowering plants to liven up the area a bit — there are many to choose from.

It's easiest to select the plants you want in your yard, determine how many of each you need and then sketch a bird's eye view of the area starting with the larger specimens. Larger plants are generally placed at the center of the bed if the bed is going to be viewed from all angles, or near the back of the bed if it's adjacent to your home. Remember to consider the mature size of the species you're planting.

Ask the gardening experts at Milberger's Nursery for more information on SAWS WaterSaver Coupon program and other suggestions that will help convert your yard into a beautiful water saver landscape. 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**.

WATER GARDENING

Enjoying Your Summer Water Features

Day-to-day care of water garden plants during the summer is mostly a matter of grooming. If there is an over-production of foliage, trimming is necessary. All discolored or torn leaves or dead blossoms should be cut and removed, stem and all, close to the roots.

Summer is a critical time for your fish in your water garden. It is possible for them to suffocate in the summer when oxygen levels are low. Be sure to check your pond early in the morning, if you observe your fish at the surface gasping for air then it's time to take action. You can add an aeration system, build another pond or thin out your fish population. If you don't take action under these circumstances then Mother Nature will thin your fish population for you.

Clear water is usually the primary goal of any water gardener. In a new pond, however, the water is seldom clear for very long. This can be rectified easily if the pond is of the correct depth, has a good filtration system, and correctly chosen plants and wildlife are stocked in

sufficient numbers. Given enough time the new pond water will clear.

During the summer, the level of the water should be checked at regular intervals and brought up to its maximum. The plants should be washed

once a week with a strong spray of water from a garden hose in order to dislodge any accumulation of aphids which may have come to the pool.

If algae has become a nuisance, much of it can be washed down the drain or over the sides of the pool by using the garden hose and a rake.

During the summer one should watch that other plants such as the submerged aquatics do not grow too rampant and take over the bottom of the water feature.

The worst thing to do is change the water. Replacing the water will only delay the developing balance of the new pond's ecosystem. Only nature can correct. When fertilizing the lawn, take care not to contaminate the pond.



Compared with other types of gardens, water gardens require a minimum of attention. There is very little weeding, certainly no watering, and there are fewer insects or diseases which attack the plants.

XERISCAPE GARDENING

The Basics of Xeriscaping

Originally developed for drought-afflicted areas, the principles of xeriscape today have experienced an ever-broadening appeal. Water has become an expensive and limited resource in South Texas so xeriscapes provide a natural water saving alternative for your landscape. Xeriscapes do not have a single look. Colorful plants like esperanza, lantana and Texas Sage can make your xeriscapes as lush and dramatic as any other garden bed.

The fundamental element of Xeriscape design is water conservation. Landscape designers constantly look for ways to reduce the amount of applied water and to maximize the use of natural precipitation.



Your xeriscape will reward you with many benefits: it will save water; it's less maintenance; your native plants will eliminate the need for pesticides; it will improve the value of your property; and it provides a habitat for local wildlife.

“A xeriscape can be lush and colorful, it can include rock and cactus, but in a climate like San Antonio we have a large palette of plants from which to choose.”

~ Dr. Larry Stein, AgriLife Extension Horticulturist

The ideal soil in a water-conserving landscape does two things simultaneously: it drains quickly and stores water at the same time. This is achieved by increasing the amount of organic material in your soil and keeping it well aerated. Compost is the ideal organic additive, unless your xeriscape contains many succulents and cacti. These species prefer lean soil.

Be sure to select plants that are native to South Texas – you will find plenty to choose from at Milberger's Nursery. Look for drought-resistant plants. In general, these plants have leaves which are small, thick, glossy, silver-grey or fuzzy – all characteristics which help them save water. Remember to select plants for their ultimate size. This reduces pruning maintenance.

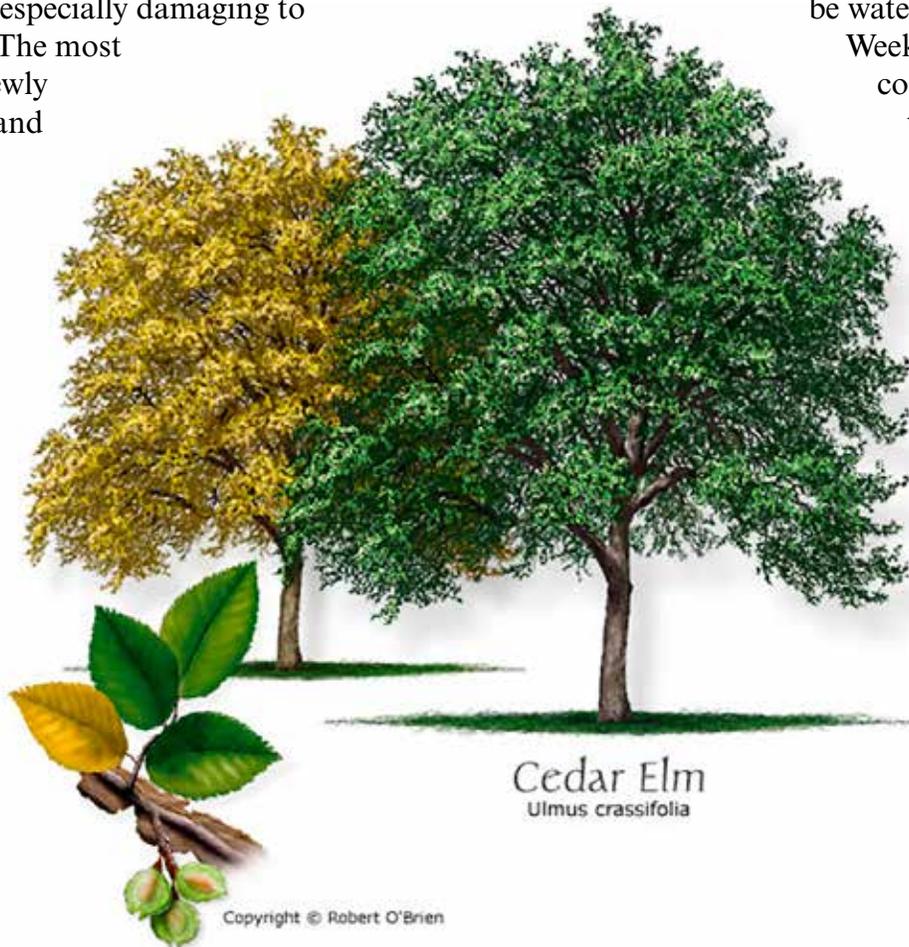
Mulch will help retain soil moisture and temperature, prevent erosion and block out competing weeds.

To spice up your summer landscape with dramatic summer color, visit our nursery where you will find Texas SuperStars® plants that will thrive in your summer 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.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Helping Your Young Trees Through the Summer

Whether you have planted native or non-native trees on your property, they should be watered properly to face the local heat that is going to hit them hard in the next months. Frequent drought conditions and the Texas heat can take a toll on any shrub or tree, but it can be especially damaging to newly planted trees. The most limiting factor for newly planted tree growth and survival is a lack of adequate water. Without enough water, young trees experience slowed root and shoot growth which can cause the tree to become stunted. Once stunting occurs, it is very difficult for a tree to make up the lost growth. Drought injury on tree leaves include wilting, curling at the edges, yellowing; leaves might be smaller size drop early or stay on the branches even though dead and/or brown. Drought stress might not kill trees immediately but it might set them up for decline, insects and diseases and other problems in following years.



The **cedar elm** serves dual purposes in the Texas landscape. It is a lovely tree that provide nice shade, but it is also very hardy in adverse conditions—tolerating both drought and wet soil. It is the most common elm tree in Texas thriving in East, South, and Central Texas.

In order to ensure healthy and sustained growth, newly planted trees should be watered consistently for the first two to three growing seasons. Depending on soil conditions and rainfall, newly planted and young trees should be watered once a week. Weekly watering should continue throughout the summer and fall months, or until the tree is well established in the landscape..

You do not generally need to water established trees. However, observe your older trees to see if they need additional water. The need for watering will most likely occur during periods of extended drought. If

you do water an older tree, you can either water the entire area under the crown or foliage, or concentrate water on one third of the area.

JULY GARDENING AND LAWCARE TIPS

Gardening in the Heat of Summer

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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**When you need
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Damianita is a Texas native that thrives in high heat and poor soil. This tiny perennial shrub is often used as a groundcover; it tolerates heat drought and rock but make sure to provide good drainage especially if your soil is deep clay. Its sunny-yellow daisy-shape blooms unfurl almost year-round. It has a mounding habit and offers evergreen, needlelike leaves. Like many Southwest natives, it demands well-drained soil.

