

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 2017

PLANT QUESTIONS

When can we divide our Dutch iris rhizomes? The ideal time to thin out iris is November but they are not fussy about the timing. It is great if you can plant the removed rhizomes right after they are dug but they can survive in a paper sack for a year or more if it is necessary.

What is the best lawn fertilizer to use in the fall? Use one of the fertilizers labeled as winterizer: usually a 3-1-2 ratio of nitrogen to phosphorous to potassium source. Winterizer fertilizer is also good for fall tomatoes, cool weather vegetables, and winter flowers.

My lemons are golf ball size but they are already turning yellow. Can I apply fertilizer before they need to be harvested? No. It is too late to affect their size for this year. Next year thin your fruit when it is dime size to one fruit ever eight inches on the tree. The Meyer lemon will produce a baseball size fruit if they are thinned, well fertilized and watered.

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.



Fall asters may be inconspicuous right now but come October, they will become the focal point of your landscape. The best spot for a fall aster is a hot sunny corner of your sidewalk, boulevard or other location in full view. The soil does not have to be very good and once they are established fall asters do not require supplemental water.

FALL GARDENING EXPERTISE

Fall Color on the Way

Many of our summer plants bloom until cold temperatures arrive but there are also some special fall blooming plants that can make a major impact in your fall landscape. Fall gardens can be spectacular with bold combinations of jewel toned colors. But they do take some planning earlier in the gardening season. Two techniques need to be considered when planning your fall garden. The first is easy: select plants that have a late bloom period. Secondly, once fall plant bloom, they are often top heavy and fall over. Keep in mind that if you prune your plants, you will be delaying the bloom period by a week or more.

(MORE FALL COLOR 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.

SEPTEMBER GARDENING EVENTS

Sat., Sept 9 – starts at 10:30am
Fall Vegetable Gardening. FREE Earth-Kind Seminar at Milberger’s Nursery presented by David Rodriguez, Extension Horticulturist. Fall’s milder temperatures bring out the best flavors in home vegetable gardens. And we can grow warm- and cool-season crops. David will answer your specific questions about your gardening issues. Bring a notebook. 210-497-3760.

Sat., Sept 9 – Noon ’til 3pm
Citrus in San Antonio workshop. Learn how to grow citrus trees in San Antonio. Horticulturalist Ben Ryan will lead this multi-part series. Offered in partnership with SAWS. Class fee per session is \$20 (\$18 members). Sign up by September 6th. San Antonio Botanical Gardens, 555 Funston Place, 210-536-1400 or sabot.org.

Mon., Sept 11 –7:00 pm
San Antonio Rose Society Member Meeting at the San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels. There is no charge and the public is invited. Contact Murray Warner 313-3371 or visit our web site sarosesociety.org

Sat., Sept 30 – 10 ’til 11 am
Kids Gardening Class BONSAI FOR KIDS with bonsai artist Sherry Disdier. Each student plants and styles their own little Juniper Bonsai tree and takes it home. Materials are provided and the class is free. Reservations are important because we need to order the correct amount of supplies and space is limited. Please call Milberger's at 210-497-3760 to reserve your child’s place.

**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
 September Features**

Take Advantage of South Texas’



“Second Spring”

**Ornamentals ☼ Shade Trees
 Palms Trees**

FALL is the ideal time to add TREES and SHRUBS to your landscape and Milberger’s has the area LARGEST SELECTION to choose from.

Texas Superstar™ LOOK FOR THEM AT MILBERGERS

**Step-by-Step
 Bale-by-Bale
 It’s coming
 Closer and
 Closer**



Milberger’s SPOOKY-er THAN EVER
PUMKIN PATCH Coming Soon!

**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 renown 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.

FALL GARDENING EXPERTISE

Fall Color

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Cape honeysuckle has tubular orange-red one inch flowers. The foliage and flowers resemble trumpet creeper in miniature. Beginning in September, they are blooming machines until the first freeze. In addition to the color, the blooms are a favorite nectar source for the waves of hummingbirds that visit San Antonio every autumn. Cape honeysuckle die back every winter but can grow to 10 or 12 feet tall by September 1st. They can be used on an arbor as a leaning vine or can be trained as an upright shrub. Cape honeysuckle is drought-tolerant and pest-free. Grow them in full sun.

“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.”

~ Calvin Finch

The flowers of **Blackeyed Susan** resemble sunflowers with richer colored, lush petals and can be quite spectacular in the autumn garden, but they do not over winter or reseed as well as purple coneflower. The “Indian Summer” variety is just one of many showy selections. Use blackeyed Susan for yellow fall blooms that attract butterflies. Grow them in morning or full sun.



Autumn sage is another fall blooming plant. It also has a bloom flush in spring and has a few blooms even in the hottest summer.

Autumn sage is available in many bloom colors including red, pink, salmon, and white. The flowers are small and dispersed along the stem so the impact is not as great as some of the other autumn bloomers, but they are attractive and reliable. Autumn sage has some shade tolerance, is very drought-tolerant, and is pest-free. It is best to cut this evergreen perennial back to the ground every few years to prevent it from becoming too leggy. It looks best at about 2.5 feet tall with new herbaceous growth. Deer do not eat autumn sage.

You can count on **Purple coneflower** for colorful fall blooms. In addition to attracting hummingbirds, purple coneflower is a favorite butterfly food source and provides seed for the finches and cardinals. Coneflower is a part of every wildflower seed mix or they can be purchased as large plants in containers. It prefers full sun and is drought-tolerant and pest-free. Deer do not seem to eat purple coneflower.

Visit our nursery to find Texas SuperStar™ plants that will bring color to your landscape this fall. 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. Reach out to us for expert advice on plants and trees and take advantage of the growing season in South Texas' "Second Spring."

LANDSCAPE IDEAS

Fall Landscape Renewal

By Mark Peterson, Conservation Project Coordinator for San Antonio Water System

Whew! You survived another scorching, parched summer. Now, it's time to do some landscape damage control and turn your attention to more promising projects, such as planting trees and pruning for your plants' future health. Here is a check list for rejuvenating your landscape for South Texas's second growing season.

Beat Brown Patch to the Punch. Water wisely. Pumpkin patches are cool. Brown patches, not so much.

Mulch is Simply Marvelous!

It reduces soil moisture evaporation, inhibits weed germination and so much more.

Preparing for a Fall Garden.

The mild, gentle weather is a great time to plant perennials.

Herbs – Easy, Drought-Tolerant

and Tasty. Herbs have a medicinal purpose, too, in the form of soothing herbal teas, which comes in handy during the cold and flu season.

Surveying Summer Damage. First, channel your inner healthcare worker and triage the landscape injuries. Then, prepare for short-term and long-term recoveries.

Daylight Savings Time Ends. Turn Back Your Irrigation Clocks, Too – This simple task can cut your water use and save you some cash.



For south Texas gardeners fall is our second spring. Toward the middle of September, trees, bushes, and plants start blooming again, the butterflies are in motion, and the bees begin to swarm. The temperatures drop just enough to mimic those early spring days, and the Earth seems to approve by making everything flower once again.

Make a Plan for Pruning. A brutally hot and dry summer may require earlier pruning.

How to Plant a Tree. Nothing says “renewal” like a newly planted seedling.

Cover Up Those Bald Spots. We're not talking male pattern baldness. But fall is the time to tend to the bare areas of your lawn.

Leave the Leaves and Leave Raking Behind.

Mow, mow, mow those fallen leaves into nutrition-rich chow for your lawn and trees.

IN THE ROSE GARDEN

Secrets to Fall Roses

By Dr. Calvin Finch

Break time is over. It's time to get your rosebushes ready for their second major blooming period. The fall blooming season can be as magnificent as the spring, especially if you prepare your rosebushes. Preparation involves some light pruning, fertilization, restoring the spray program and regular watering.

Fear not, fall pruning is not as extensive as spring pruning. Simply remove dead wood, crossed branches and any branches that interfere with your ability to work around the plant.

“Throughout history, roses have been quintessential symbols of beauty and often represent some of life's most intimate and cherished moments. In San Antonio, roses are the epitome of perseverance. While many lawns, shrubs and trees perish in long droughts, old roses rebound in full bloom.”

~ Erin Conant, SAWS Conservation Consultant

In September spread one cup of 19-5-9 lawn fertilizer (special rose foods are available, but slow release lawn fertilizers work equally well) on the soil around the plant out about

two feet. A second application can be applied again in early October.

Roses are susceptible to insect and disease damage. Protect them with weekly spray for insects and fungus. Organic gardeners can use a combination of sulfur, neem oil and spinosad.

Follow these simple preparation tips and you'll be stopping to smell the roses throughout the fall.



Roses appreciate consistent watering. You will find that drip irrigation is the most efficient method, or you can wind a leaky or soaker hose among the plants to apply water without wetting the foliage. Duplicate the drip irrigation effect by turning the spigot one quarter turn.

Looking for turf grass? Visit Milberger's sample lawn areas. You are invited to examine and walk on these sample lawn areas to help you determine the look and feel of the turf you prefer. We also have information and specification sheets on the different sods. Visit www.milbergernursery.com.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Planting Trees and Shrubs in the Fall

By Dr. Douglas F. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist, Texas Agrilife Extension Service

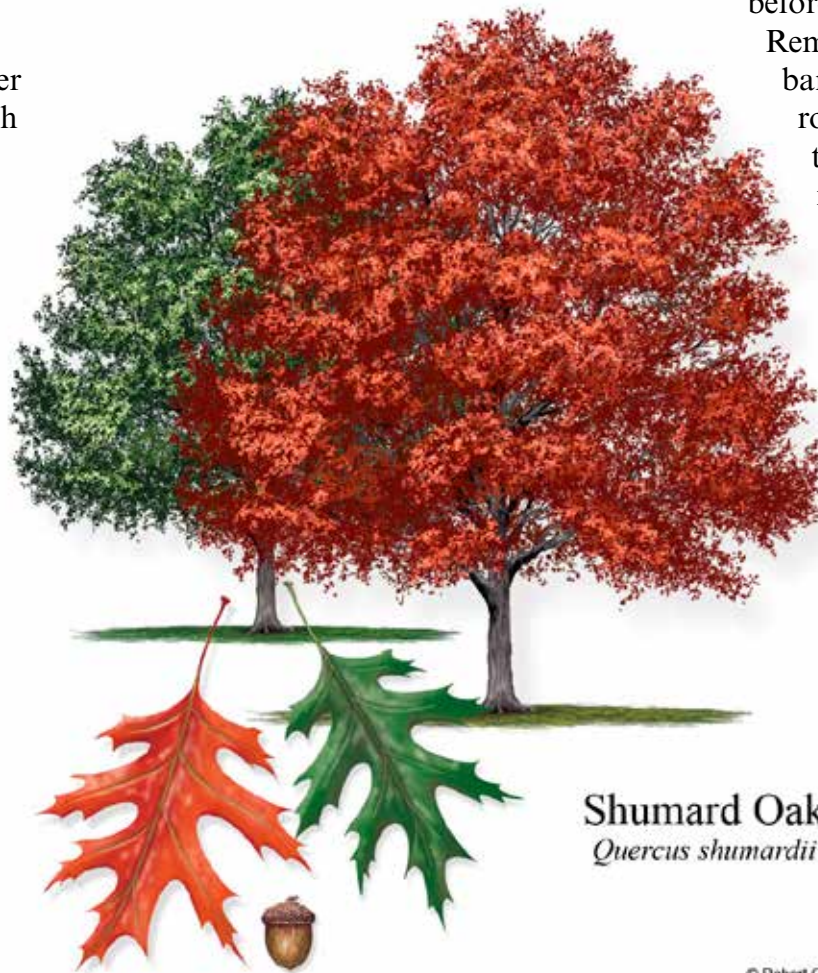
Finally, fall is here. The weather is becoming slightly cooler, and gardeners are slowly migrating back outdoors after record-breaking heat this summer. Now is a perfect time to add a new tree or a grouping of shrubs to the landscape. Or perhaps you have an area in the landscape that needs 'remodeling' or rejuvenating. The fall may be the best season to plant, surpassing even the spring.

Some people may prefer January through March for planting, but the fall months of September through December have distinct advantages. Fall planting follows the heat of summer, before a cool winter season, and trees and shrubs planted in the fall use this to good advantage. Plant roots grow anytime the soil temperature is 40 degrees or higher, which may occur all winter in Texas. During the winter months, the root systems of the fall-planted specimens develop and become established. When

spring arrives, this expanded root system can support and take advantage of the full surge of spring growth.

Fall is the optimum time to plant balled and burlapped trees and shrubs. Balled and burlapped plants have ample time to recover from transplanting and proliferate roots before spring growth begins. Remember, however, all bare root plants, including roses and pecan and fruit trees, should be planted in late winter when they are completely dormant.

All plants have growing requirements. Think about the plant's needs before you invest. Is it adapted to your area's soil? Will it grow in sun or shade? Does it need a wet or dry location? Is it cold hardy? Some nurseries have this type of information on tags beside the plant. If not, ask your Texas AgriLife Extension agent or one of the South Texas landscape experts at Milberger's Nursery.



Shumard Oak
Quercus shumardii

© Robert O'Brien

Shumard or Red Oaks are native to Texas and grow to become large stately trees with wide spreading canopies that become more rounded as they mature. Red Oak are high quality deciduous trees that are easy to maintain and require moderate amounts of fertilizer and moisture when established. Their leaves are glossy dark green with a lighter green underside and in the fall the leaves turn a brilliant red to red-orange color. They typically have a single trunk with well-spaced limbs that greatly please the hearts of many tree climbers.

SEPTEMBER GARDENING AND LAWCARE TIPS

It May Still Feel Like Summer But . . .

By Dr. Jerry Parsons

Fall color: Add compost and fertilizer to your flower beds for a little extra kick that tired flowers need. Add instant color by planting annuals such as ornamental kale, calendula, dianthus, fall aster, and phlox. Continue to feed patio plants and hanging baskets with a water-soluble fertilizer. Rejuvenate heat stressed geraniums and begonias by lightly pruning, fertilizing and watering. Divide perennials like daylily and iris now.

Fall vegetable gardening should be in full swing. It's time to plant broccoli, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower and other cole crops and cool season vegetables. Protect young seedlings from hot sun. Old sheer-curtains do a great job. Mulching with oak leaves does a great job, too. 3-4 inches of leaves help keep the soil cool, stops weeds from germinating, and helps hold in the moisture.

Shade trees and shrubs: Plant trees and shrubs this month or later after the hot weather subsides. Check the requirements for trees and do your planning before planting any. Visit our on-line Tree Lot at www.milbergernursery.com to find out the mature height and width. If you prune your oak trees, be sure to paint as soon as you cut.

Prune: The fall pruning of roses is lighter than in the spring and consists of removing twiggy and unproductive growth along with any crossing or dead canes. All rose foliage is left on the bush at this time. Labor Day is a good time to do the fall "grooming."

Fertilize: With the advent of cooler weather and rain, your roses will begin their heavy fall blooming season. Vegetable crops benefit from a side dressing of fertilizer to enhance their growth and production potential. Lawns have been expensive to maintain during the prolonged heat and drought. Those with lawns still alive will have to beware of the brown patch fungus which occurs during cool, moist fall conditions.

On the lookout: Insects will be in "full swing" and their populations "full blown" by now.

Odd jobs: Select appropriate and recommended tree and shrub varieties that will complete or renovate your landscape.

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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talk to the tree experts at Milberger's Nursery.



Fall Garden **Mums** are the classic fall blooming perennials. Flowers are available in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. They make a dazzling display and require a minimum amount of care. You should consider the garden mum an annual flower. Therefore, when frost kills the tops of the plants, cut off the dead stems and remove from the garden. Sometimes mums will come up the next spring if just the tops of the plants are cut off. If you prefer to keep them over the winter, cut off the dead tops, and cover the plants with mulch to a depth of three to four inches.