

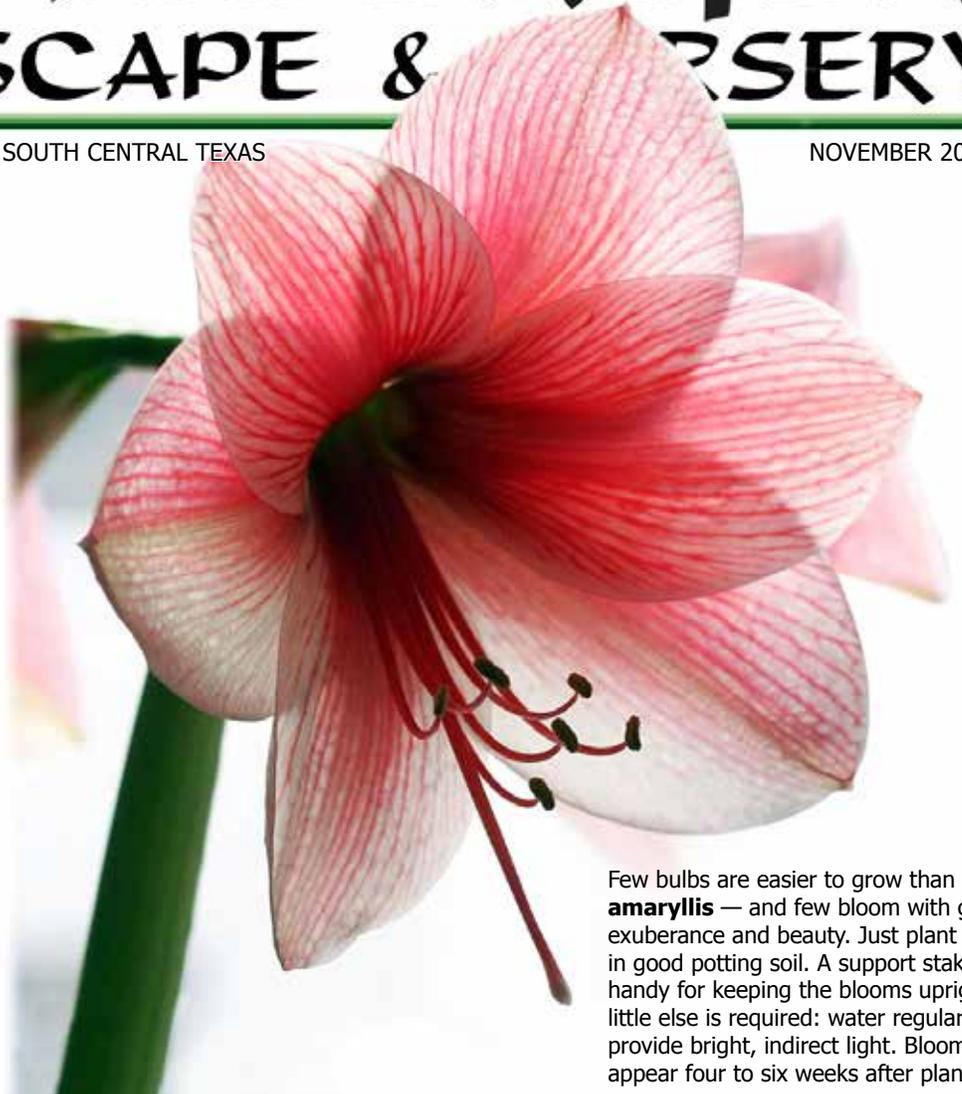
PLANT QUESTIONS

How do we reduce our acorn crop? We are always sweeping them up. As far as I know there is no way to reduce the crop. Acorns are high value wildlife food. Pile your collected acorns where the birds, squirrels and deer can find them.

Is it true that cyclamen can survive the winter cold and will retain their bloom until May? Cyclamens are my favorite plants to provide winter color in the shade. They do pretty well with cold, partly because they are usually planted in sheltered locations. Cover them when under 26 degrees. The plants won't freeze but the blooms will be knocked off by the cold. It takes them a long time to reset the bloom.

Is it too early to plant snapdragons? November is a good time to plant snapdragons. It gives the plants time to develop some size before cold weather arrives.

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.



Few bulbs are easier to grow than **amaryllis** — and few bloom with greater exuberance and beauty. Just plant the bulb in good potting soil. A support stake is handy for keeping the blooms upright, but little else is required: water regularly and provide bright, indirect light. Blooms will appear four to six weeks after planting.

GARDENING EXPERTISE

Amaryllis – More Than a Holiday Plant

Amaryllis are a popular holiday gift plants because the bulbs bloom very freely indoors and they are affordable. The large, showy flowers make a bold statement and are available in an increasing variety of colors, shapes, and sizes that fit almost any taste. Colors include various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and orange. There are also many striped and multicolored varieties, usually combining shades of pink or red with white. Amaryllis are not difficult to grow and may be brought into bloom every year if the plants are treated correctly. Well known as a potted plant, amaryllis can be grown beautifully outdoors in our warm south central Texas climate.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

HOLIDAY GARDENING EVENTS

Mon., Nov 13- 6:30 'til 8:30

San Antonio Rose Society-Abbreviated Rose Show.
Free and open to the public. At the San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels. 210-313-3371 or sahs@mail.com or www.sarosesociety.org.

Sun., Nov 19 2pm 'til 4pm

Preparing Your Daylilies for Winter presented at the November meeting of the San Antonio Daylily Society at the Antonio Botanical Gardens, Educational Building, 555 Funston, San Antonio, TX, 78209
http://www.sadaylily.org

Sat., Dec 2 - All day

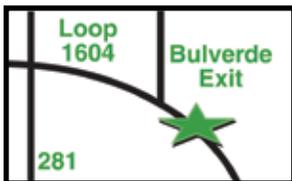
Milberger's Christmas Traditions Open House. Carolers, ride our Little Red Choo-Choo. Face Painting & Balloon Artists. Photos with Santa. Roasted corn, pop corn, hot chocolate and Milberger's famous Christmas wassail. Free at the nursery. 210-497-3760

Sun., Dec 43 - All day

Milberger's Annual Cowboy Christmas. Hot chili and cool music. Live country music with the Texas Weather Band. Face painting & Balloon artists. Roasted corn, pop corn, hot chocolate and Milberger's famous Christmas wassail. All day at the nursery. 210-497-3760

Holiday Break: There is no **Kids Gardening Class** in November or December. Classes will resume in January and continue on the last Saturday of each month throughout the year.

**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
November Features**



You are invited! **Annual Christmas
OPEN HOUSE
WEEKEND**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Come and get into the holiday season. Let the kids enjoy some fun activities while you pick the perfect Christmas tree, poinsettia, decorations or gift for the holiday.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR DETAILS, TIMES AND UPDATES

HOT CHOCOLATE WASSAIL CANDY CANES **FRESH CUT CHRISTMAS TREES**
GARLANDS • WREATHS and Unique gifts for *the gardeners on your list*
POINSETTIAS • DECORATIONS



And Come on Down to our
Cowboy Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

For some Hot Chili and Some Cool Music with the **Texas Weather Band**



CHRISTMAS TREES

Milberger's offers the most reliable selection of fresh cut Christmas Trees, displayed and kept in water.

**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

Follow us call 210-308-8867 or 1-866-308-8867

@milbergerssa

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GARDENING EXPERTISE

Amaryllis

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

In preparation for planting your amaryllis bulbs, place the base and roots in lukewarm water for a few hours. If you cannot plant the bulbs immediately after receiving them, store them at a cool temperature between 40-50 degrees F.

Plant bulbs in a nutritious potting compost, many are available pre-mixed. Plant the bulb up to its neck in the potting compost, being careful not to

“Next spring, as soon as the weather settles and all threat of frost is gone, you can move your amaryllis outdoors. Choose a sunny area where you can water the plants daily. Don't be alarmed if many of the leaves wither and die in the adjustment period, new ones will take their place.”

damage the roots. Press the soil down firmly to set the bulb securely in place after planting.

Water sparingly until the stem appears, then, as the bud and leaves appear, gradually water more. At this point, the stem will grow rapidly and flowers will develop after it has reached full growth.

Bulbs will flower in seven to ten weeks as a general rule. In winter, the flowering time will be longer than in spring.

After your amaryllis has stopped flowering, it can be made to flower again. Cut the old flowers from the stem after flowering, and when the stem starts to sag, cut it back to the top of the bulb.

After six weeks you may remove bulbs whenever you would like to plant them. Plant bulbs eight weeks before you would like them to bloom.

If you want to store your bulbs for later planting, clean the bulb and place it in a cool (40-50 degrees F), dark place such as the crisper of your refrigerator for a minimum of six weeks before planting.



To allow your amaryllis to re-bloom naturally, cut off the flower stalk after blooming ceases, but let the foliage continue to grow as long as it can. Keep it in bright light, indoors or out.

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 for expert advice on plants and trees and take advantage of South Texas' warm winters to improve your landscape, or look for our ads in the **SanAntonio Express-News** to find which plants are on sale.

WATER GARDENING

Winterize Your Water Feature

Some winter care is necessary for most water gardens and water features. Most winter care starts about the time frost hits your area. Small, free standing container water gardens should be drained and stashed away in your shed for next year. In ground, permanent water gardens and ponds can be left to face the elements but they can use a little extra care and protection.

Stop feeding your water plants in September. When it freezes, some of your plants will succumb to the cold and others will slowly be going dormant. Decide which plants you want to over-winter and which can be replaced in the spring. Small floating plants can be difficult to keep indoors all winter and are not as expensive to replace as larger, ornamental plants.

Hardy water lilies can be left in the garden, but tropical water lilies should be lifted out and brought indoors. They can be stored bare root, in a method similar to non-hardy tubers. Hardy plants should be moved to the deepest part of your water garden, for added protection. Remove any dead foliage and flowers and trim them back to a few inches above the soil line, before you move them.



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.

Remove any plants that are not hardy. You don't want them decaying in the water. If you wish, you can bring many indoors, to over-winter in a plastic tub filled with water.

Cold water will slow the metabolism of your goldfish and koi and they won't need to be feed very often. It is also advised that you switch to a low protein food, to avoid excessive levels of

ammonia in the water. Once the water temperature slips into the low 60s F., start feeding with a food labeled low-protein or spring/autumn food and don't give them more than they consume immediately. You can stop feeding entirely when the fish no longer come to the surface of the water asking for food.

Get your pond in good, clean shape prior to the first frost. Remove all dead plant material. This should be done throughout the year. To keep fall leaves from filling the garden, you can drape a fine net over the garden, before the leaves start to fall. I raise mine a little, with an arched PVC pipes, so that wildlife, like frogs and birds, do not get trapped underneath. You can then lift the net and most of the leaves. Clean the remainder with a long handled net or skimmer.

VEGETABLE GARDENING

Your November Vegetable Garden – It's Not Over Yet

The average first frost date in our area is November 15. In early November you can still seed mustard greens and radishes. If you are looking for lettuce, peas or spinach you can be successful by putting in transplants.

The slower growing cole crops that you put in your garden back in August and September are bursting into their glory right now. Your Brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli grow best at a monthly mean temperature of 60 to 70 degrees F.



For protection against freezes you can drape sheets, frost blankets or other materials over the plants and stakes. Try to avoid letting the sheeting or blanket be in contact with any plant parts and make sure that the covering drapes all the way to the ground. Cover the edges with a small amount of soil or other material to hold the edges down, if needed.

“English peas can be seeded in early November. If you have a fall tomato crop the timing is just about perfect to plant the seed around the cage to use it as a trellis. The tomatoes end production just as the peas begin their fast growth period.”

~ Dr. Calvin Finch

This occurs when temperatures are 80 degrees F. or less during the day and 60 degrees F. or less during the night. In our part of Texas that is right now.

In south Texas, strawberries like to get planted in November. They are cold tolerant and grow through the winter without covering to protect from the cold. You may need to protect the plants and fruit from slugs and snails with slug and snail bait. If you select the correct varieties for our growing area (consult the gardening experts at Milberger's) you will enjoy a hard strawberry harvest in next spring. For best results remove all runners, blooms, and small fruit from the plants until January. This special pruning allows the plants to concentrate on developing roots and foliage to maximize the spring crop.

You can find excellent quality mulches at Milberger's Nursery for all of your landscape and flower beds. It won't float away and when you apply at least 2" of mulch to all your landscape and around trees it will help protect your plant investment over the winter.

TREES AND SHRUBS

It is Tree and Shrub Planting Time

By Dr. Calvin Finch

Late fall through early spring is the best time to plant trees and shrubs in South Texas. The plants have time to develop roots in the cool soil before they face the stress of a hot, dry summer. The process of selecting and planting a tree or shrub is not overly complicated, but it deserves some thought. If you select well and care for the plant adequately, it could be providing benefits for a long time.

Here are some recommendations that will help make the tree or shrub an asset rather than a burden.

☞ Determine where you want a tree or shrub and what you want to accomplish with it. Shade is one reason to add permanent plants, but you will not accomplish your goal if you plant the shade tree on the North side of the house.

☞ Determine what size tree or shrub you want to fill the available space. Select the species and variety based on mature size not the size that the plant is in the nursery.

☞ Despite our belief that plants grow slowly, most grow quickly and can outgrow their spot in the landscape unless you have selected well.



CPS' Green Tree Rebate Program will reimburse customers \$50 per trees for approved trees planted between Oct 1, 2017 and Apr 30, 2018. Application forms, instructions and guidelines are available at Milberger Nursery or www.milbergernursery.com

☞ Be sure to select trees and shrubs that perform well in our area.

☞ A tree such as a sugar maple that is a premiere shade tree in New York, will not survive in San Antonio. Trying to keep a poorly adapted plant alive wastes water and time.

☞ Many nurseries have sales in the autumn and winter. Planting now allows you to take advantage of the promotional prices.

☞ Allow plenty of space between shade trees and buildings or other infrastructure. Allow at least 10 feet space for a small tree and 20 or 30 feet for a large shade tree. Keep sidewalks and driveways clear.

☞ Purchase a reasonable size tree or shrub. Small plants are less expensive and easier to plant. Sometimes

they even reach mature size before larger more expensive specimens because they become established more easily.

☞ Select the right plant for the amount of light that is available. It takes a shade-tolerant plant such as viburnum to produce a nice plant in deep shade.

NOVEMBER GARDENING AND LAWCARE TIPS

Planting, Pruning and Time to Fertilize

By Dr. Jerry Parsons

Plant: November and December are the ideal months to plant trees and shrubs. It is the ideal time to move trees and shrubs as well. Planting now gives the plant time to establish its root system before the shoot growth develops in the spring. Also, usually little supplemental watering is required through the winter. Look around at the fall color and see which plants you would like to add to your landscape. Make certain your final choices are from the list of recommended trees and shrubs for this area found at www.milbergernursery.com.

Many of South Central Texas' finest wildflowers can be seeded now and bluebonnets can be transplanted. Direct-seed the Wildseed seed mixes directly into the soil.

Prune: This is the ideal pruning time for many trees and shrubs. If you have oak trees in need of pruning, begin now. It is especially critical in areas where the oak wilt fungus is a problem. Apply horticultural tree wound dressing on all oak cuts. Prune out dead, damaged or diseased wood from trees and shrubs. Avoid topping or dehorning.

Fertilize: If you have procrastinated the application of the most important lawn fertilization of the year – the application of a “Winterizer” fertilizer to condition the grass for winter survival – do it before December. The fertilizers to use are the ones which have “Winterizer” on the bags and are complete (contains all three elements – nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) analysis with 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratios.

On the lookout: Watch for pillbugs (sowbugs or rollie-pollies) eating seedlings and young transplants of flowering annuals such as bluebonnets, pansies, etc. Control with a barrier of an insecticide or by using baits until the plants are older and tougher. Scale and other hard-to-kill insect pests may be overwintering on your trees or shrubs.

Odd jobs: Do not allow heavy accumulations of leaves to pile up on the lawn area. If they get wet and pack together, the grass can be damaged. It is best to rake leaves or pick them up with a mower and bagger and place them in a compost pile or spread them over the garden area and work them into the soil. Add additional fertilizer to assist in decomposition.

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.

We respect your privacy. Your name will not be shared with anyone not associated with Milberger Nursery.

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Christmas Trees

Milberger's offers the most reliable selection of Christmas Trees. Fresh cut, displayed and kept in water

Noble Firs

Nordmann Firs

Frazer Firs



Cemetery Iris are desirable plants for San Antonio landscapes: they are very tough and qualify as xeriscape plants, and pests are rarely a problem. The blooms are beautiful and the foliage is attractive. Iris beds make a good groundcover in full sun with the sword-like foliage providing a different look and texture than most groundcovers. November is the best time to thin your Iris beds.