

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 2018

PLANT QUESTIONS

Why can't I find pansies in the nursery yet? Pansies are more sensitive to the spells of hot temperatures that we often experience in September and early October than some of the other cool weather annuals. It is best to wait and plant them after mid-October.

My lemons are only golf ball size but they are already turning yellow. Should I fertilize them? No, it is too late to affect their size for this year. The usual reason for small fruit, however is too many lemons on the tree. In the future you may want to thin the fruit when it is dime size.

What is the best lawn fertilizer to use for the fall fertilizer? Use one of the fertilizers labeled as "winterizer." They usually offer a 3-1-2 ratio of nitrogen to phosphorous to potassium source. The nitrogen is in a fast release form.

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.



With sunflower-like shades of yellow or orange your **Calendula** will last well into the fall. It is low maintenance and is sometimes confused with Marigold, they're both little cousins of the Sunflower family.

SOUTH TEXAS GARDENING EXPERTISE

Cool Weather Color

By Dr. Calvin Finch

It is time to look for space in the garden for the first planting of cool weather annuals – snapdragons, stocks, and calendula. They have relatively good heat tolerance and if planted now will provide early winter blooms in addition to blooms early next spring.

One of the issues with planting cool weather annuals is that your summer flowers including zinnia and vinca are still blooming well and may perform until Thanksgiving if the weather stays mild. One strategy to consider is to remove a portion of the warm weather plants to make room for the first wave of snaps, stocks and calendula. More can be planted when cool weather finally arrives.

(MORE CITRUS 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

Thurs., Sept 20 – 6 'til 8pm

Youth Gardens Program, Bexar County Master Gardener (BCMG) Educational Seminar with Ruby Zavala, Youth Gardens Coordinator at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service on educating urban youth about horticulture, staying healthy, developing interpersonal skills and promoting community involvement. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, Free and Open to the Public. President@bexarmg.org

Sat., Sept 22 – 10:30 'til Noon

Preparing your Fall Vegetable Garden with by David Rodriguez. South Texas offers vegetable gardeners two great growing seasons every year. Fall's milder temperatures bring out the best flavors in home vegetable gardens. Insects and disease are less bothersome. And we can grow warm- and cool-season crops. David will answer your specific questions about your gardening issues. Bring a notebook. Free adult seminar at the nursery. 210-497-3760.

Sat., Sept 29 – 10 'til 11am

Kids Class on Snakes of Texas. Snakes can be beneficial partners in your garden. In this class your child will learn a myriad of facts about these egg-laying vertebrates. Don't worry. Your child will be safe and will not have to touch the snakes at this class. Milberger's 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 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

Follow us



@milbergerssa

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

"LIKE" us



Facebook.com.milberger's nursery

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.

SOUTH TEXAS GARDENING EXPERTISE

Cool Weather Color

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Prepare your garden for cool-weather annuals by incorporating a couple inches of compost into the planting bed. Add one cup of slow-release or winterizer lawn fertilizer into every 50 square feet of bed. Your winter annuals will need to be watered twice a week if there is no rain. Fertilize every four weeks or so.

“One of the issues with planting cool weather annuals is that your summer flowers including zinnia and vinca are still blooming well and may perform until Thanksgiving if the weather stays mild. One strategy to consider is to remove a portion of the warm weather plants to make room for the first wave of snaps, stocks and calendula. More can be planted when cool weather finally arrives.”

~ Calvin Finch



Snapdragons are available in small, medium and large versions. The colors are vibrant with yellow, red, pink, violet, and white to choose from. Smaller varieties look good in containers. Larger varieties make a good border or can be planted en masse.



While adding beautiful color to your garden beds **Stocks** also make excellent cut flowers. The selections available as transplants have pastel colored flowers and grow to about 18 inches tall. The flowers are attractive in the garden and in a vase as a cut flower. Their special characteristic is that they have a wonderful fragrance. The fragrance can be enjoyed near the garden and in the house.

Visit our nursery to find colorful plants that will thrive in your landscape this fall and winter. 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 South Texas' warm winters to improve your landscape.

WATER GARDENING

Finding The Right Spot for Your Water Garden

By Larry J. Shoemake, Michael A. Arnold, and William C. Welch
with the AgriLife Extension Service

In selecting the site for the garden, consider the plants that you intend to grow in the pond, the soils on the site, how level the grade of the site is, surface drainage of the site, the view of the pond site from the house, the overall fit of the pond in the existing landscape, and anticipated maintenance requirements.

If you want any flowering aquatic plants such as water lilies in your pond, these dictate the site be in full sun for optimum flowering. For the best growth and establishment of all of your water garden plants, a minimum of 5 to 6 hours of direct sunlight each day is recommended.

For the best results and ease of construction, a site with a well-drained surface and subsoil is best. A sandy loam textured soil will prevent soil saturation from floating the pond liner. If the area has good surface drainage there will be fewer problems with runoff of chemical pesticides and fertilizers into the pond from the surrounding land.



Locate your water feature where the water can reflect the beauty of the surrounding landscape. A water garden should be located in full sun, or as much as is available; at the most level site available with easy access to water and electricity and where it can be viewed from your house.

The more level the site the less work in constructing the pond.

Once the exposure, soils, drainage, and views have been worked out, consider how the pond will fit into your existing landscape. Look out for nearby tree roots from shallow rooted plants (such as elms and willows) or trees that do not tolerate root disturbances (like post oaks). Remember that leaves, fruit or twigs may present a maintenance problem. The site of the pond should facilitate its management. If the pond is sited too close for its size to a wall or other obstructions, this could cause a problem reaching all of the pond's surface for cleaning and removal of dead leaves.

Thanks to modern plastics the building of beautiful water gardens has become a weekend job with only a minimum of easily learned skills.

LAWNCARE

Time to Fertilize Your Lawn

Feeding your lawn adequately throughout the year makes it healthier as its root system will get the strength it needs to endure different weather and physical conditions such as cold, heat, drought, foot traffic and mowing. Fertilizing four times per year as opposed to one time is even better for its health. Here are the best times of the year you could choose to apply the fertilizer.

🌿 **Fall (September to November)** Fall comes with favorable conditions such as cool nights, sufficient rainfall and the refreshing morning dew that lawns love. So why fertilize? At this point your lawn is ready to regrow and recover from the summer stress so it will be looking for the nutrients it needs to help it out. Give it its final feed right before winter sets in when it will once again be preparing



Your lawn fertilization schedule should take into consideration factors such as the amount of shade or sunshine it gets. It is important that you note the factors that are specific to your lawn and incorporate them in your program.

“It is time to fertilize the lawn. Fertilization in the fall can green up the lawn but it does not stimulate much grass growth.”

~ Calvin Finch

itself for a long winter sleep. This feeding will help strengthen the roots and increase its nitrogen storage which will help it spring back to life when the winter begins to fade.

🌿 **Early Spring (February to April)** It is a given that your lawn will awaken from its winter sleep as hungry as a bear coming out of hibernation. Feeding your lawn in early spring will strengthen its roots and get it off to a good start.

🌿 **Late Spring (April to June)** Your lawn is busy growing and using up its stored energy and can certainly do with more than one feeding during Spring.

🌿 **Summer (June to August)** The heat, drought, foot traffic and insects associated with summer can be hard on lawns. A well-fed lawn will be better able to handle the summer stress.

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.

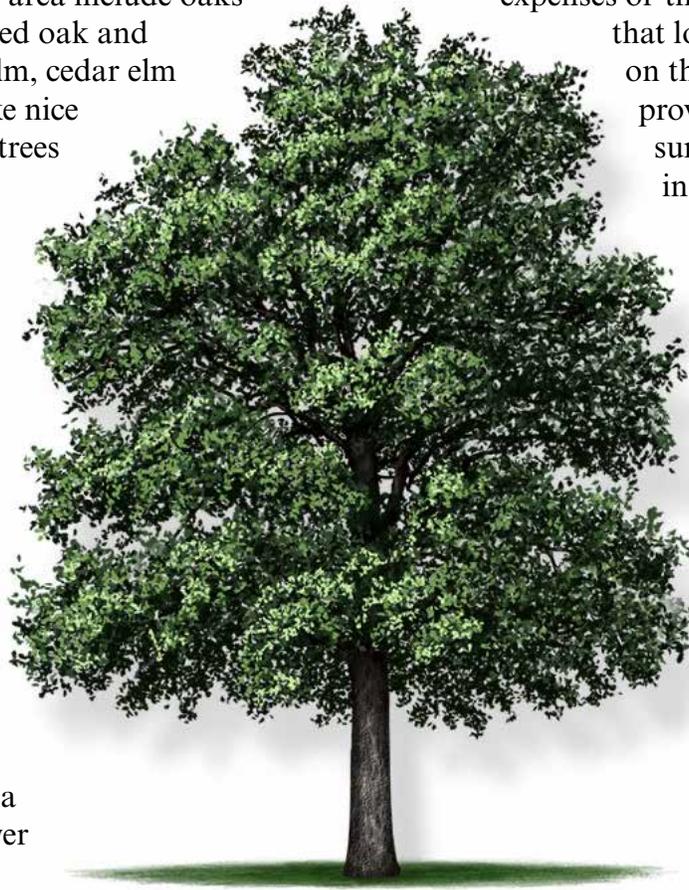
TREES AND SHRUBS

It's Tree Planting Time

By Janet Laminack, County Extension Agent, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Fall is the perfect time for planting trees. Planting in the fall allows a tree to establish itself in the cooler temperatures of fall and spring. When choosing trees, people often want a quick-growing tree. Quick growing sometimes means quick-dying, so it's best to be patient and pick a quality tree. Some good choices for our area include oaks — burr, chinkapin, red oak and live oak. Lacebark elm, cedar elm and pecans also make nice shade trees. Smaller trees are a good option, especially on urban lots, and include redbud, crape myrtle, desert willow and wax myrtle.

When deciding where to plant a tree, consider the mature size of the tree. Consider how big this tree will be in 10, 20 or 30 years. Make sure you don't plant a tree too close to power lines, buildings or other trees. You also need to check that the tree isn't too close to anything underground as well. Before you dig, call 811 to have the underground utilities in your lawn marked for free. Planting trees or shrubs might



Chinkapin Oak is a good-looking medium to large shade tree quite at home in south central Texas. Its unique saw-tooth leaves are rich green, turning yellow to bronze in the fall. You will see this tree growing wild in well-drained bottomland soils and on limestone hills near water. It's adaptable to a range of soils and exposures. It's moderate to fast-growing and develops an open rounded crown as it ages.

seem like minor digging, but not knowing where underground lines are could put you in danger or disrupt service in your neighborhood.

Trees can increase a home's resale value. Properly placed trees can also help with heating and cooling expenses of the home. A deciduous tree (one that loses its leaves in the winter) placed on the south or west side of a home provides shade and cooling in the summer and allows for warming up in the winter.

Avoid putting a tree in the ground too deep. Keep the same soil line on the trunk when it's in the ground as it was in the container. If this kind of exactness makes you nervous, place the tree slightly higher. Some settling may occur and it is very important to make sure the tree is not too deep.



Once the tree is planted, don't forget about it. For the first three years, while it gets established, it will need more care such as

supplemental water and reducing the competition of weeds and grass.

SEPTEMBER GARDENING TIPS

Our Fall Gardening Season is Upon Us

By Dr. Jerry Parsons

Plant: Fall vegetable gardening should be in full swing. Flowering Annuals can be transplanted now: Alyssum, asters, calendula, dianthus (pinks), flowering cabbage and kale, pansies, petunias, phlox, Shasta daisies, snapdragons, and stock. If temperatures remain unseasonably hot, gardeners would be well advised to wait until October to transplant most of these cool-season flowering plants.

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. Once you have done your light fall pruning, you can apply a cup of organic rose food per bush and follow this two weeks later with a liquid feeding. Don't feed with either liquid or dry foods after the beginning of October. 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.

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. It's time to plant squash, bush beans, cucumbers, radishes, carrots, beets, sweet corn, and potatoes.

On the Lookout: Insects will be in “full swing” and their populations “full blown” by now. For further identification of what bugs you have and how to control them, see our web site. Tender seedlings and transplants must be protected from spider mites, stink bugs, grasshoppers and deer.

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

For more detailed and complete Gardening Tips for this month visit www.MilbergerNursery.com.

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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL _____

Milberger's Landscape Nursery
3920 N Loop 1604 E
San Antonio, TX 78247

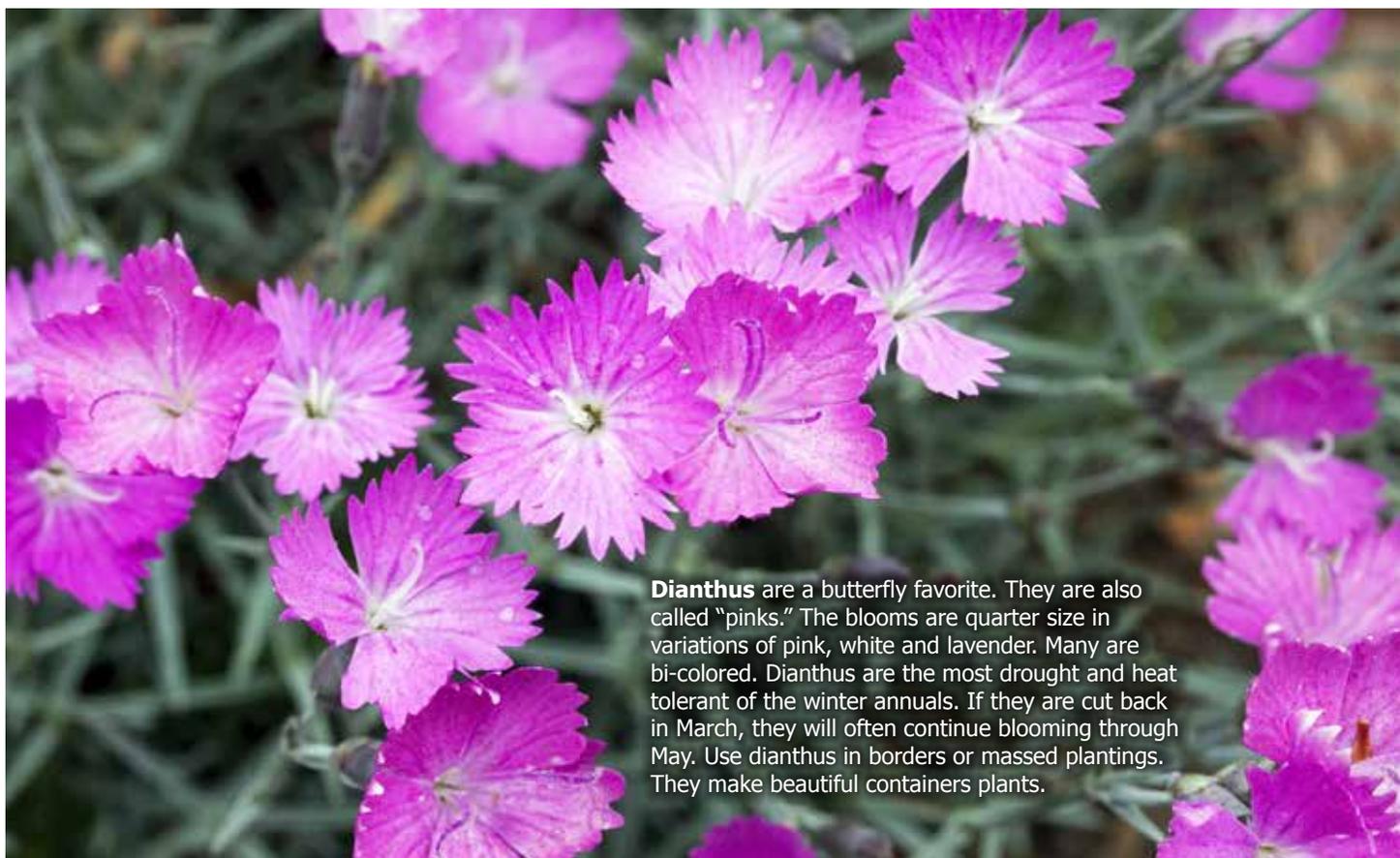
PRSRT STD
U. S. Postage
PAID
Kerrville, TX
Permit 89



Milberger's Tree Lot

**Has the largest selection of healthy,
Well rooted, ready-to-plant trees in the area.**

To find the specific tree for your landscape
talk to the tree experts at Milberger's Nursery.



Dianthus are a butterfly favorite. They are also called "pinks." The blooms are quarter size in variations of pink, white and lavender. Many are bi-colored. Dianthus are the most drought and heat tolerant of the winter annuals. If they are cut back in March, they will often continue blooming through May. Use dianthus in borders or massed plantings. They make beautiful containers plants.