

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

MARCH 2019

PLANT QUESTIONS

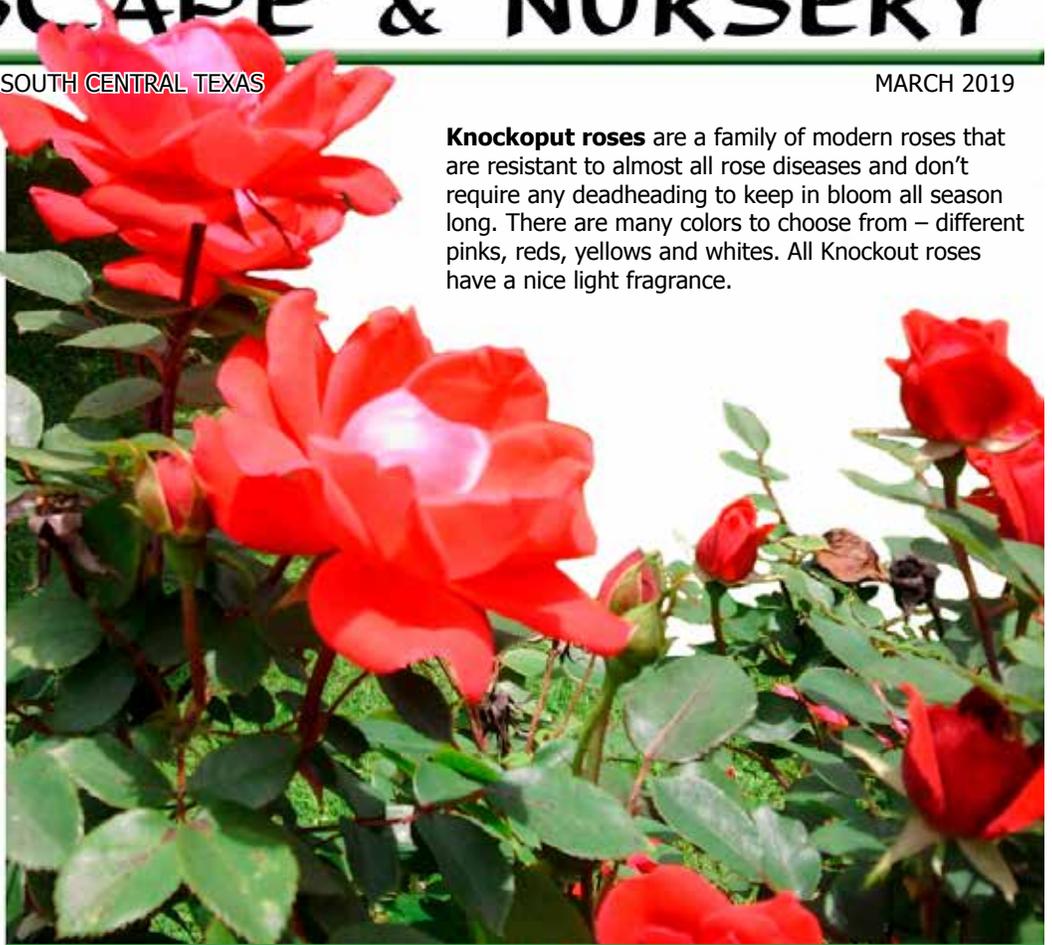
Can I put coffee grounds in my flower garden? Coffee grounds will benefit any and all of your flowers. Probably the best method would be to compost them with other kitchen scraps, grass clippings, leaves & etc. and use the compost as a soil additive.

Our roses are a tangled mess. Is now the time to prune them? If they are climbing roses wait until after the spring flush of blooms to prune the climbing roses, late May. Other types of roses should have been pruned by Valentine's Day.

How do I keep Bermuda grass out of my vegetable garden? Dig as much of the root system out as possible and spot-treat with a herbicide any sprigs that sprout. Be careful, because that herbicide can damage your tomatoes and vegetables.

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.

Knockout roses are a family of modern roses that are resistant to almost all rose diseases and don't require any deadheading to keep in bloom all season long. There are many colors to choose from – different pinks, reds, yellows and whites. All Knockout roses have a nice light fragrance.



SPRING GARDENING EXPERTISE

Time for Roses

By Drew Demler, Manager of the Errol McKoy Greenhouse

Roses are a classic staple in landscaping and in the flower garden. Grown in landscapes since the beginning of recorded history, roses come in all shapes, sizes, and flower colors. There are hundreds of categories and varieties of roses including shrub types, climbers, ground covers, and flowers that range from very large to very small; there are even roses with green flowers! It is believed that the Spanish missionaries originally brought roses to the new world, first to Mexico and then spread them north into the United States. The first hints of spring inspire many gardeners to consider planting roses. While many perennials and shrubs are planted in the fall, the best time to plant roses is early spring. You can plant either bare root roses or container-grown rose plants in the spring and be enjoying blooms by summer.

(MORE ROSES 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.

MARCH GARDENING EVENTS

Sat., Mar 9 -- 10:30 'til Noon

How to Prune Trees. Proper pruning enhances the beauty of almost any landscape tree and shrub, Free seminar presented by Davey's Tree Service. 210-497-3760

Sat., Mar 16 – 10:30 'til Noon

Your Family's Spring Vegetable Garden. Free Adult Earth-Kind Educational Seminar presented by David Rodriguez, Extension Horticulturist You will learn how to select the plants for your garden, how to plant and care for them and what to do when you spot problems. 210-497-3760

Sat., Mar 23—10am 'til 2pm

Rosarians from the San Antonio Rose Society will be at Milberger's to talk to you about the roses in your landscape. Whether you are planting your first roses or you are an experienced rose gardener, you will enjoy your discussions with these certified rosarians. 210-497-3760

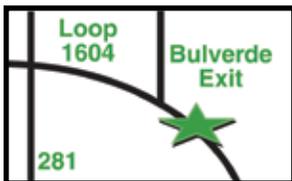
Sat., Mar 30 – 10am 'til 1:30pm

Milberger's Blood Drive. Take advantage of this opportunity to give the gift of life. Milberger's will offer a \$20 gift certificate to each person willing to donate. 210-497-3760

Sun, Mar 31 – 12:30pm 'til 1:30pm

It's All About Them Birds! Learn about feeding and attracting birds to your backyard. Milberger's Kids Gardening Classes are free and we provide all the materials, but be sure to call to reserve your 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 Circle K 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 March Features

Milberger's Landscape Nursery

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

March 20th thru April 1st

Celebrated with weekly sales

Visit our website, and check our advertisements in the *San Antonio Express News* for our great anniversary sale items.

Get Paid to Plant a Tree with CPS Green Shade rebates

\$50 per Tree

UP TO FIVE TREES
Just ask one of the
**South Texas
Tree Experts
at Milberger's**



We Have Your Roses!



ARRIVING MARCH 4

Milberger's regularly carries OVER FIFTY VARIETIES of Antique and Modern roses that are recommended by the San Antonio Rose Society.



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.

SPRING GARDENING EXPERTISE

Now is the Right Time to Plant Roses

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Roses need to be grown in full sun. They like to be in soil that is well-amended with organic matter and has good soil drainage. Newly-planted roses will appreciate watering around twice a week throughout the first growing season, and a two to three-inch layer of mulch helps quite a bit. Milberger's Nursery regularly carries over fifty different varieties of Antique and Modern roses that are recommended by the San Antonio Rose Society.

When planting bare-root roses soak the roots of the rose plants in a bucket or tub of water for several hours before planting, or wrap the plants in clean wet sacks to allow the roots and stems to absorb all the moisture they can.

“Old roses are finding new friends these days because they tend to be tougher and long-lived.”

~ Dr. Jerry Parsons, Bexar County Horticulturalist

Dig individual holes at least 12 to 24 inches deep and 16 to 18 inches in diameter depending on the size of the root system. Replace the soil in the hole so that it comes to within 8 inches of the top. Firm the soil with the hands, then form a mound or cone of soil in the center of the hole with the top of the cone about 3 inches below bed level. Check this by placing a stick or shovel handle across the top of the hole.

Remove one plant at a time from the bucket, planting it before removing the next one. Cut off all damaged or broken roots with a sharp knife or pruning shears. Trim off the tip of all other roots about 1 inch to encourage new feeder root development. If the plant has a large root system, enlarge the hole rather than cutting the roots to fit the hole. Do not attempt to plant when soil is wet. The soil is too wet if it can be pressed into a ball that will not crumble when you attempt to pick it up.



When first planting a rose bed, put it in a place that will receive at least six hours of full sun per day. Light afternoon shade can be tolerated and is often desirable during the hottest part of the summer. Heavily shaded areas will produce bushes that are rank and have few flowers. Mildew and black spot disease also are more prevalent in shaded areas.

Rosarians from the **San Antonio Rose Society** will be at Milberger's to talk to you about roses in your landscape on Sat., March 23 from 11am until 3pm. Milberger's regularly carries over fifty varieties of Antique and Modern roses that are recommended by Texas A&M and the San Antonio Rose Society.

GARDEN COLOR THAT WILL LAST

Texas Tough Lantana

Texas lantana starts to show its color in April and can bloom continuously from May through November.

It blooms more profusely as heat intensifies. Northern cardinals and other bird species eat the ripe fruit. Butterflies and other beneficial insects love the lantana.

Once established, this plant requires little water and loves the Texas heat.

Typically, watering once a week is enough, but this plant shows you when it needs water. If the leaves droop, give it some water. It should then perk up for another 5 to 7 days, even in 100-degree heat. In the winter, after the plant has hardened off, trim it back almost to the ground. Each year will bring all new growth.

There are several colors available, and each one tends to have a slightly different growth pattern. The red/orange variety grows in a more bushy form, while the purple variety stays lower to the ground and spreads out.

It is deciduous, dropping all leaves in the winter and leaving stems of gray, shaggy bark. These can be cut to the ground to keep the shrub small, or left to grow into thick trunk and branches. The wood of



Texas lantana thrives in the full summer sun and heat, requiring little water once established, and can be used as a shrubby ground cover in dry, poor soil. It takes the blistering heat of summer to bring it into its own, covering the entire shrub with multi-colored flowers through the worst triple-digit heat.

the lantana is especially tough and durable and has been used for weaving and crafts.

The original scientific name of *Lantana horrida* refers to the strong smell of the leaves that can affect sensitive persons. Thankfully, botanist August von Hayek re-named it *Lantana urticoides*, calling upon its resemblance with nettles (the *Urtica* family) in this new name; *urticoides* just means “like a nettle”.

IN YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN

Everyone Can Grow Vegetables

If you haven't tried growing vegetables, you should. If you have, then you've experienced the joy and satisfaction of eating something from your garden. Vegetable gardening in Central Texas has challenges as well as many rewards. The summers are hot and humid compared to other parts of the country, but the winters are mild so you can grow vegetables year round.

Growing vegetables can be easy and it can be hard. With a little knowledge and some consistent tending to your garden you can be successful. Choosing vegetables that grow well in this environment is important.

🌱 Pick the sunniest site. Find a spot where the sun shines directly for at least 10 hours each day.

“Start small and choose only crops your family really likes, then specialize in those. You can always expand your garden in the future.”

~ Neil Sperry's *Tips for Texas Vegetable Gardeners*

🌱 Provide drainage. No vegetable crop grows well in waterlogged soil. You can always add water when plants are dry.

🌱 Prepare your soil carefully. Organic matter is your key to success.

The crops that you will want to put in your vegetable garden in March include: leaf lettuce, Swiss chard, radishes, carrots, turnips, beets. In late March, and early April you can start your beans, corn, tomatoes, peppers, squash, melons, cucumbers. Wait until Mid-April and May for your sweet potatoes, okra, and southern peas.



Selecting an appropriate garden site is essential to the success of a garden. The ideal area is exposed to full or near-full sunlight, with deep, well-drained, fertile soil. The location should be near a water source and free of competition from existing shrubs or shade trees

Get your homegrown tomatoes ready for **Milberger's Top Tomato Contest** on June 9th. Tomatoes from your garden may be selected a winner in one of five judging categories. Keep yourself updated on our website, www.milbergernursery.com.

LAWN CARE

Preemergent Herbicide It's A Matter of Timing

The old adage “A good offense is the best defense” couldn’t be more true when trying to keep your lawn weed free. Weeds are the inevitable enemy of your lawn and will take over if nothing is done to stop them. A single weed may be capable of dropping thousands of seeds, and then you hit that weed with the lawn mower and those seeds are spread literally everywhere. If you have convinced yourself you don’t have a single weed in your lawn, odds are your neighbor does, and a nice breeze will carry those weed seeds hundreds of yards where they can last upwards of 50 years just waiting for the right conditions to take root in your finely manicured lawn.

Fortunately for all of us, technology has lent us a hand at battling weeds. A quick application of a preemergent herbicide product and all those pesky weeds will lay dormant another year. A preemergent weed control product isn’t a pre emergent weed killer. It keeps the weeds from growing which is why it’s necessary for you to put down a pre emergent herbicide product every year.

When to apply pre emergent herbicides — simple: March 15th & September 15th. Basically you want to control



That pesky perennial weed, the **dandelion**, got its name from those long, lance-shaped leaves. In Old French: Dent-de-lion means lion’s tooth. While many people think of the common dandelion as a weed, herbalists find it a valuable herb with many culinary and medicinal uses. Dandelion is a rich source of beneficial vitamins and minerals. It has been used in salads, teas and wine.

summer weeds and winter weeds. As soil temperature rise above 50°F the summer weeds begin to take root and begin growing. The major offenders, crabgrass and clover, will not emerge until the soil is consistently over 50°F. If you do live in a warmer area you may need to apply your pre emergent herbicide before March 15th, so it’s not quite as simple as I first made it sound.

Late in the growing season the weeds begin to set new seed. This is where you want to catch any late growth with the application in September.

Remember keeping on top of the weeds will save you much time and aggravation next spring when the lawn mowing season begins again.

Application of a preemergent herbicide too early may cause the elements to dilute or wash away the herbicide and allow the weeds to grow uninhibited. Application of the herbicide after the weeds start to grow will not stop the growth since its already rooted.

MARCH GARDENING TIPS

The Gardeners Favorite Time for Planting

By Dr. Jerry Parsons

South Texas gardeners are ready to get those transplants into their places in the garden. The last frost of spring may have occurred but even if it doesn't freeze the wind will blow. Protect tender transplants and seedlings with a plant guard or windshield. Windshields help repel insects and unexpected cold (4 degree cold protection).

Plant: Plant hibiscus, bougainvillea, mandevilla and allamanda vines in containers for tropical landscape color. Impatiens, fibrous begonias and coleus are summertime favorites for shade. Perennials which can be planted now include perennial phlox such as 'John Fanick' and 'Victoria,' iris and daylilies. Roses can still be planted. March is a month to plant the gardener's favorite vegetables such as tomatoes. Put the containerized tomatoes in the ground towards the end of the month. Save some for April planting and a few for May in case of weather problems. In areas where space is limited you can plant your favorite flowers and vegetables in containers or hanging baskets.

Lawn Care: Establish or renovate the lawn as needed. Re-sod or replant with turfgrasses

adapted to this part of Texas and suited to the planting location (shade or sun). In areas which receive shade where grass is difficult to grow, consider planting a dependable groundcover such as English ivy, Asian jasmine, vinca, or one of the prostrate junipers.

Fertilize: Use a pre-plant application of a slow-release fertilizer – analysis such as 19-5-9 at the rate of 3 pounds per 100 square feet of garden planting area. Early March is the ideal time to fertilize landscape plants because you give them food just before the spring growing season starts.

On the Lookout: Be on the lookout for a spectacular spring wildflower display. The spring months in South central Texas are perhaps best known for their Indian paintbrush, mountain laurel, winecup, pink evening primrose, prairie verbena, horsemint and, of course, the bluebonnets. Bluebonnets are actually "winter weeds," so to rid the lawn area of unwanted wildflowers, use a broad-leaved weed-killer spray or simply mow them. If a weed killer is used, follow label directions carefully to avoid damage to desirable plants.

For more detailed and complete Gardening Tips from Jerry Parsons go to 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.

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Crossvine is a robust but well-mannered vine for full sun situations. It will fill a fence or arbor, but not take over the neighborhood like trumpet vine or coral vine. Crossvine is a good place to find the earliest hummingbirds. It has good drought tolerance and once it is established does not require supplemental irrigation.

