

# MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

MAY 2019

## PLANT QUESTIONS

**When can we plant zinnias and the other warm weather annuals?** Zinnias, cosmos, moss roses, begonias, purslane, caladiums, pentas and coleus can be planted now. I usually wait for May until the snapdragons, stocks, pansies, cyclamen and primrose decline from the heat.

**Can I top and shape a 15 foot tree so that it has a more rounded appearance? It is close to my house and I would like to control its growth but I don't want to damage it either.** Try not to top it. Rather, cut back to a major limb which is growing laterally or spreading. In this way growth will be forced into the limb you leave at the angle you leave it. However, as long as the tree is healthy and growing well, you will not hurt the tree by cutting on it.

**We just put down El Toro Sod. Is it too late to fertilize in May?** Your new sod should not need to be fertilized for approximately 30 days. Use a fertilizer with slow release nitrogen.

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.

A visit to Milberger's Nursery will help you keep your spring garden blooming into summer. You will find healthy plant stock that has been selected to thrive throughout our South Central Texas summers.



## SOUTH TEXAS GARDENING EXPERTISE

### Hacks For A South Texas Sustainable Garden

By Lucy Johnson, Freelance Writer and Sustainable Gardener

Recent initiatives towards sustainability and conservation across the state are opening up new possibilities for eco-friendly gardening in South Central Texas. Integrating eco-friendly strategies into your gardening routine helps protect local ecosystems and wildlife, while encouraging sustainable land practices in the community. One of the best things you can do to establish a sustainable garden is to Choose Native Plants. Opting for plants native to your local area helps ensure that invasive species do not throw the local ecosystem off-balance. Native wildflowers are easy to grow and maintain, and are often more resistant to pests than non-natives. Generally speaking, native plants will attract friendly creatures, such as birds and butterflies, into your garden.

(CONTINUED 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](http://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.

## MAY GARDENING EVENTS

**Sat., May 11 – Starts at 10:30am FREE Adult Seminar Plants for Butterflies and Hummingbirds.** Learn how to be successful with your butterfly garden. Not only beautiful, help support one of our very important pollinators but butterfly gardens also give us an opportunity to provide a fun and educational family activity. 210-497-3760

**Sat., May 25 – 10 'til 11am FREE Kids Class Honey Bees for Kids.** See how a bee hive works and why they are important to our plants and flowers. Presented by local bee-keeper and expert Jim Bills. Parents can take pictures of their child wearing a bee suit and hive tools. Don't worry, no one will get stung. 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.

**Sat., May 25 – 9am to 5pm 22nd Annual San Antonio Festival of Flowers.** A day of all things gardening. See page 5 At the Austin Highway Event Center, 1948 Austin Hwy, SA. 210-380-3532

**Sat., June 8 – Judging starts at noon Milberger's Top Tomato Contest.** FREE to enter. Bring your finest homegrown tomatoes and/garden vegetables. Every entrant will receive a free \$10 gift certificate redeemable at Milberger's on the day of the contest only. 210-497-3760.

**Sat., June 8 – starts at 10:30am FREE adult Seminar Growing Citrus on Your Patio and in Your Landscape.** Learn how to be successful with citrus with David Rodriguez, 210-497-3760.

**Sat., June 8 – 10am 'til 1:30pm Milberger's Blood Drive** by South Texas Blood and Tissue Center Milberger's will offer a \$20 gift certificate to each person willing to donate. 210-497-3760.

Find more Gardening Events, visit [www.MilbergerNursery.com](http://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](http://www.milbergernursery.com)  
[nursery@milbergersa.com](mailto:nursery@milbergersa.com)

## Milberger's Nursery May Features

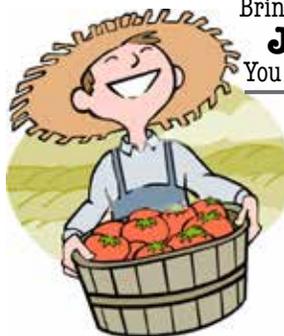
# MAY is One of the most COLORFUL TIMES OF THE YEAR

The Nursery is **STOCKED TO THE FENCES WITH ANNUAL, PERENNIAL AND TROPICAL COLOR.**

Look for weekly specials on **BOUGAINVILLEA HIBISCUS** OTHER **BLOOMING BEAUTIES** that thrive in our hot South Texas sun.

## TOP TOMATO CONTEST

Bring your best tomatoes to Milberger's **June 8— before noon**  
You could win in one of four categories:



**CHERRY TOMATOES  
Large Tomatoes  
Biggest Tomato  
Best of Show**

Every one who enters receives a **\$10.00 Milberger Gift Certificate**  
SEE OUR WEB SITE FOR DETAILS

**Planning for a Water Garden?**  
Milberger's has it all:  
**WATER GARDEN PUMPS AND SUPPLIES  
KOI WATER PLANTS**

Not only do water features add an **AIR OF TRANQUILITY** to your landscape they **INCREASE THE VALUE of your property.**



Watch for our weekly sale specials in **The San Antonio Express-News** or at [www.MilbergerNursery.com](http://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



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call

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

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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](mailto:mhess@hctc.coop).

## GARDENING EXPERTISE

## Sustainable Gardening

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

**Use A Compost Pile:** By adding compost solutions to your garden, you can introduce beneficial microorganisms to help prevent the spread of plant disease, aerate the soil, break down material to promote plant growth, and retain moisture in your garden. Composting is also environmentally beneficial in a broader sense: as it reduces the amount of waste incurred from gardens and cooking within your family home. You can use compost solution as a natural fertilizer that won't harm local ecosystems or infest your garden with pesticides needlessly.

**Keep it Bird-Friendly:** Birds are a vital component to local ecosystems, especially flowering plants which



The Sustainable Food Center (SFC) "Grow Local" program helps teachers, parents, and community members in South Texas start, use, and sustain successful school gardens by offering training, resources, educational materials, and consultation. School gardens can serve as an outdoor classroom for multiple subjects and connect students to the food system. You can find SFC at [sustainablefoodcenter.org](http://sustainablefoodcenter.org).

“One of the best uses of a valuable resource like water is to insure the survival of recently established plants. Summer is a critical period for recently planted shade trees and ornamental plants. Not yet completely recovered from the effects of transplanting, they often need special care to withstand drought conditions.”

~ Dr. Jerry Parsons, Bexar County Horticulture Specialist

they help to pollinate. To attract native bird species into your garden, add features such as a bird feeder or bird bath. Bird baths are also great for adding water to your scenic display, which helps restore proper water balances ecosystems need to flourish during drier seasons.

**Grow Your Own Food:** Lastly, emerging data on gardening practices suggest that produce gardening saves an average of \$550 annually per 600 square feet. Growing fruits and vegetables in a garden reduces the waste involved in packing, shipping and preserving fresh produce. Also, your own fruits and vegetables reduces the costs your family spends on produce at the grocery store. Its a great idea for teaching children about ecosystems, food sustainability, and healthy gardening practices. It tastes so much better as well.

When planning for your summer gardens look for Texas Superstars™. They are plants that undergo extensive tests by AgriLife Extension horticulturists and are selected by a board for their ability to perform well for consumers and growers. Texas Superstars are readily available at Milbergers Nursery where you will frequently find them among our weekly on sale items. Find our weekly sale items on our web site [milbergernursery.com](http://milbergernursery.com).

## DAYLILIES

# Texas's Favorite Perennial

Daylilies are prolific and colorful bloomers. Few pests show any interest in them. They will grow in sun or shade, dry or wet soil, can tolerate both flooding and drought, and produce beautiful flowers throughout Texas. You can find tiny flowers and large flowers, compact plants and tall plants. You can even create your own varieties with relative ease. It is no wonder that every gardening expert recommends daylilies for the home landscape. Although daylilies will tolerate poor soil, you want them to bloom well, so take some time to prepare the soil. Daylilies require good drainage; they will rot if they are planted in a spot where they constantly have wet feet. Plant only to the base of the crown, the area above the roots on the plant where it is white in color and gradually goes to green.

Daylilies thrive in locations receiving six hours of sun each day. A bit of shade is fine and, in fact, may

be an advantage during San Antonio's hot summer afternoons. They will grow in most soil types, with a fairly wide pH range, but they will do best in a rich humus soil that is either neutral or slightly acidic. Be certain the location has good drainage and that the daylily won't have to compete with roots of larger plants, such as shrubs or trees.

Daylilies can be planted almost any time of year in Texas, although it may be best to avoid planting during the hot summer, when the plant not only must become established but also has to cope with intense heat. After working up the soil, dig a 12-inch hole. Make a mound of soil in the center of the hole and spread the daylily roots over the mound. Cover the roots with soil up to but not above the crown of the plant, working the soil around and between the roots. Firm the soil and water well. Prune the foliage back to a length of six to eight inches. Mulch well. Individual plants should be placed about 18 inches apart.

Daylilies need about one inch of water per week, especially during hotter months. You can fertilize them in moderation with a balanced formula in the spring and then in the fall.



The **daylily** is a hardy perennial; one plant may live for years. Daylilies are among the easiest perennials to grow, typically blooming in early summer. Although each flower lasts only one day, a typical plant will have many buds on each scape (stem) and will produce several scapes during the blooming season. The blooms themselves come in many shapes and colors.

May is the peak time for Daylily blooms and members of the San Antonio Daylily Society will at **San Antonio's Festival of Flowers** May 25 at the Austin Highway Event Center in San Antonio. Beautiful cut blooms will be on display and people visiting the festival can vote for their favorites. Members of the San Antonio Daylily Society will be selling daylilies to grow, and will be available to answer your questions.

## 22nd ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

# A Gathering of South Texas Gardeners

The 22nd annual Festival of Flowers happens Saturday, May 25 at the Austin Highway Event Center, 1948 Austin Highway. Hours are 9am-5pm.

The event is a “Day of Gardening Know-How” with seminars, exhibits, displays and a variety of vendors selling plants, landscaping products, garden art, artisan foods and more. Ask an expert at any booth about roses, daylilies, native plants, organic products, floral design and more.

Carts and wagons are welcome, and a free plant-checkroom is available. There are two ATM machines on site.

The Festival of Flowers is co-hosted by SAWS, and this year, SAWS customers who attend can earn up to three Water-Saver Rewards points by attending seminars on water-efficient yards, landscapes and horticulture.

The days activities include the 22nd annual City-Wide Plant Exchange where more than 1,000 pass-along plants are traded between area gardeners. If you plan to join the Exchange, be sure to read the guidelines at [FestivalofFlowers.com](http://FestivalofFlowers.com). The San Antonio Daylily Society will host its 2019 Show and Sale. Exhibits will include a huge display



of “Plants that Thrive in San Antonio”. The San Antonio Herb Market Association presents cooking demonstrations in the Herb Kitchen, and you can vote for your favorite flower arrangement created at the Floral Design Challenge.

Be sure to pick-up your free xeriscape plant and bag compliments of SAWS while supplies last.

Find more information about this year’s Festival of Flowers on the website at [SAFestivalofFlowers.com](http://SAFestivalofFlowers.com), or call (210) 380-3532.

*Festival*  
of Flowers

**\$1.00 off**

**ONE REGULAR ADULT ADMISSION TO THE 2019**

**San Antonio Festival of Flowers**

**SATURDAY ~ MAY 25, 2019 ~ 9AM - 5PM**

**PRESENT THIS COUPON  
WHEN YOU ENTER THE  
FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS**

**REGULAR ADMISSION PRICE:  
ADULTS \$7  
CHILDREN AGE 10 AND UNDER FREE**  
*this discount is compliments of:*

**AUSTIN HIGHWAY EVENT CENTER  
1948 AUSTIN HWY  
BETWEEN EISENHAWER AND WALZEM ROAD**

**MILBERGER  
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## TREES AND SHRUBS

# Foundation Shrubs: An Important Aspect of Your Landscape Design

Foundation shrubs are those that are typically selected and planted near or against the foundation of your home. Typically, foundation shrubs are those which are known to be very hardy and long-lived. When selecting shrubs for a foundation planting, keep in mind mature heights and widths. You wouldn't want to plant a shrub that grows six feet tall under a window that's base two feet above the ground. A tall shrub that might be used to frame and soften the corner of a home should not grow taller than the eave, or gutter line of the home. Keep foliage texture in mind. When planting two or more types of shrubs in a foundation planting, select shrubs with contrasting foliage textures.

Not only do foundation shrubs add to the attractiveness of your home, shrubs and garden beds are important for the structural foundation of your home. Summer temperatures in South Central

Texas can exceed 100 degrees which can put stress on the foundation of your house. The soaker hoses or sprinkler systems that you install to water your shrubs and garden beds keep the soil around your house moist and can help minimize cracks in the foundation of your house.

It's as important to landscape the sides and back of your property as it is to landscape the front. If

only one part of the yard is landscaped, soil on that side will generally expand because it's likely to be watered more often. Soil expansion can lead to foundation cracks so it's best to water your property uniformly. Because the expansive clay soil affects landscaping in our area you'll want to protect your foundation from issues



You will find South Central Texas' most popular and most functional foundation shrubs at Milberger's Nursery. Choose from Japanese Boxwood, Dwarf Yaupon Holly, Dwarf Burford Holly, Wax-leaf Ligustrum, and Red-tip Photinia among others.

such as large increases in moisture on one side and or too little on the other.

## MAY GARDENING TIPS

# May Gardens Are Blooming

By Dr. Jerry Parsons

**Plant:** For color get the begonias and impatiens in quickly if you expect them to fare well when the heat arrives. Wait to mid-month to plant periwinkles. Don't plant vinca until at least June 1. Hot weather plants include firebush, lantana, poinciana, esperanza, firespike, caladium, coleus, begonia, moss rose, hibiscus, bougainvillea, purslane, cannas and blue princess verbena.

Plant sun-loving, heat tolerant annual flowers such as portulaca, purslane, copper plants, lantanas, and ornamental peppers. Do not transplant vinca (periwinkle) until June after the rainy season is over. Let your wildflowers go to seed before mowing.

**Prune** pillar or climbing roses as soon as they have finished their major bloom to allow time for the development of new canes for next spring's blooms. Prune storm-damaged tree branches immediately after damage occurs.

**Fertilize:** If you have not applied fertilizer to the lawn, May is a good month to fertilize lawn grasses after the lawn grass has been mowed twice.

Slow release fertilizers are best because they feed throughout the growing season and do not leach (wash) into the ground.

**Odd Jobs:** After spring bulbs have finished flowering, wait until the foliage turns brown before cutting it off. Food is being manufactured and stored for next year's blooms. Mulch plants to reduce watering requirements, suppress weed growth and minimize soil temperature changes. Peach fruit should be thinned to six to eight inches apart along the fruiting branches which generally leaves about 600 fruit per mature tree; apples and pears should be thinned to one fruit per spur or cluster.

**On the Lookout:** To encourage more rapid re-blooming, pinch off old flowers on bedding plants after their first flower cycle is completed. Roses may encounter insect problems. Watch for aphids on tender new growth, thrips on flowers and cucumber beetles on foliage. Beetles are especially a problem if a vegetable garden is nearby. Fear not, this is the normal season of leaf shed for photinias, gardenias, ligustrums, pittosporums and magnolias.

For more detailed and complete Gardening Tips from Jerry Parsons go to [www.MilbergerNursery.com](http://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](http://www.milbergernursery.com).

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

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## 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.



**Firebush** is a natural selection to substitute for flowering annuals. It blooms more profusely and more continuously than most other perennials. Firebush is a root-hardy perennial—meaning it will re-sprout from the roots every year. It is the warm soil temperatures of summer that initiates the new sprouts so most South Central Texas gardeners will have to tolerate the barren, early spring appearance of the slow-sprouting, root-hardy Firebush.