

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

NOVEMBER 2021

PLANT QUESTIONS

When should we move our bougainvillea and hibiscus inside? Tropical plants get damaged when temps fall below 40°F. Watch the weather and shelter your vulnerable plants before temperatures fall below 40°F. To be safe just move your cold sensitive plants to shelter beginning in mid-November.

Can I still plant broccoli in my winter vegetable garden? Sure you can. It is best to get the cold crops planted as quickly as possible to take advantage of production between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Spinach and onions can also be planted.

Are those tough modern roses and old-fashioned roses really easier to care for? Yes, the tough modern roses and old-fashioned roses are easier to care for. They don't need weekly fungicide and insecticide sprays. Pruning can be done on your own schedule if at all. The roses described even rate as xeriscape plants. They bloom better with regular watering but can survive without it.

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.



Sunpatiens are hybrid of "traditional" impatiens that bloom vigorously in the heat of South Texas. Unlike its shade-loving cousins, Sunpatiens thrive in full sun, eventually mounding up to two to three feet. This vigorous annual works great as a bedding plant or in a large container. Different varieties of Sunpatiens are available in a wide range of colors, including white, rose, salmon, orange, lavender, and red. Plus, a few varieties also offer eye-catching variegated foliage. Hummingbirds love the nectar-rich flowers.

GARDENING EXPERTISE

Sunpatiens for Easy Non-Stop Color in the Sun

Sunpatiens is the answer to all those who love impatiens and wish to see them bask in the sun. If you are a big fan of the look of *Impatiens walleriana*, Sunpatiens will give you a similar look but they are unaffected by the strains of impatiens downy mildew that have ravaged *Impatiens walleriana* cultivars. The bigger bonus offered by Sunpatiens is that they like both sun and shade, so you can pretty much plant them anywhere. They are also fast growing, don't mind the heat, and will bloom until the first frost. While garden impatiens are an easy option to toss in shady areas of the garden, each Sunpatiens plant offers more growth potential than "traditional" Impatiens, meaning you can plant fewer per square foot. They work great for mass plantings. You can choose from Lilac, Pink Candy, Hot Corral, White and Magenta.

(MORE SUNPATIENS 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.

GARDENING EVENTS

December 4, all day *FREE EVENT*
 CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATED SCHEDULE

Milberger's Traditional Christmas Open House

Join us for a day of wholesome holiday fun for the entire family.

Remember to bring your camera for memorable photos with Santa Claus. We will have free rides through the forest of living and fresh-cut Christmas Trees on our Little Red Choo-Choo.

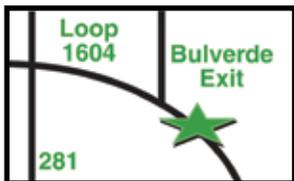
Christmas Trees

AFTER THANKSGIVING Milberger will offer the most reliable selection of Christmas trees in the San Antonio Area. All of our trees have been selected for their excellent needle retention and shape. Every tree is fresh cut and displayed in water to maintain superior freshness. Trees range from 5' to 12' tall. The most common types of Christmas trees are:

Nordman firs are very full in terms of both branches and foliage. The needles display a dark green, glossy upper-surface with a contrasting silvery white under-surface. The needles are flat with rounded tips, and grow in symmetrical rows circling around the branch. The Nordman fir has excellent needle retention that makes it a great choice for any climate. Its light scent makes it a desirable species for consumers with allergies.

The **Fraser fir** is an elegant tree. Its fragrance, full shape, strong branches, unique coloring and ability to retain its needles throughout the holiday season make it an excellent choice for a Christmas tree. The Fraser fir has a pleasing, natural shape, without looking "sheared." Strong branches that support heavier decorations curve slightly upwards. Needles are up to one inch in length and flat. Fraser fir has a very pleasant woody scent.

The **Noble fir** has long been considered the "King" of Christmas trees. Quality Noble firs should have a very well-shaped conical form, with regularly-spaced branches and a smooth taper from bottom to top. Noble fir trees have a naturally symmetrical shape, with sturdy branches that are perfect for displaying ornaments. The Noble fir has excellent needle retention when properly cared for, and a pleasantly strong scent.



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
 November Features**

WE'RE SAVING PAPER AND FUEL BY



with our

GARDENING NEWSLETTER for SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS.
 The black and white version will no longer be delivered by mail.

You will still get your
 monthly newsletter in
vibrant color

delivered monthly to your computer,
 smart phone or tablet

by visiting our website and/or signing up for e-mail delivery



Milberger's Nursery will be

~ **CLOSED** ~

Thanksgiving Day

so we can celebrate with family and friends
**OPEN FRIDAY, NOV 26
 and ALL WEEKEND**

**Ready
 for the
 Holidays?**



Visit Milberger's Nursery to find a
 unique collection of holiday decorations
 for your home, hearth and yard.
**WREATHS ~ GARLANDS
 YARD AND INTERIOR DECORATIONS**

Planning for a Water Garden?

Milberger's has Pumps for
 your water garden, Water Plants
 and expert advice.

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.

GARDENING EXPERTISE

Sunpatiens

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

“Traditional” impatiens, also known as the touch-me-not plant, is a very popular flowering plant suited to garden beds and containers. Native to forest floors, it has to be grown in the shade to avoid being scorched by the sun. Sunpatiens is a relatively new impatiens hybrid that thrives in full sun and hot, humid weather, greatly expanding the area in which gardeners can spread impatiens color. Aside from regular watering, Sunpatiens are virtually maintenance free. Plant them, step back and be delighted with the results. Whether you have one pretty hanging basket by your front door to fill, or an acre of land to play with, Sunpatiens can do the job.



Another good thing about **Sunpatiens** is if they do get too tall or big for you, give them a trim and the flowers will pop right back out.

“Sunpatiens stems are thicker and tougher than shade impatiens. That’s a clue to why they can take the hot sun, The heftier stalks take up more water. The flowers and leaves are bigger, too. Because of their heft, Sunpatiens are well suited as border plantings for seasonal color or to add to perennial beds as fillers as cold weather comes.”

Plant your Sunpatiens in full sun or shade. If planting in containers or baskets place them in full sun. Plant in well-drained soil rich in organic matter, such as compost. Incorporate a slow-release fertilizer at half the label rates into the soil when you plant. Be careful not to over fertilize.

Water plants well after planting and keep your soil evenly moist until plants are established. If plants wilt after they are established, simply water well and they should revive within 24 hours.

New leaves and new flowers will cover old blooms, so you don’t need to remove old flowers or cut off older growth. In most cases, Sunpatiens should not be cut back to control size as it alters their natural form; but, if vigorous types get taller than desired in mid- to late summer, they can be cut back, taking off the top third of their growth.

Ask the gardening experts at Milberger’s Nursery for more suggestions that will help get your garden into full bloom. You will find healthy plant stock, good advice and creative suggestions for your landscape and gardening needs from the experienced nursery staff. To see what is on sale each week visit our web site at www.milbergernursery.com.

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 fed 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 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.

OUT IN YOUR LAWN

Winter Lawn Care

By Jeremy Griffin

Whether you're new to Texas or have lived here all your life, you might be wondering how to keep your grass healthy throughout winter so you have a lush, green lawn come spring.

Tailor your watering to the season.

Water your lawn if it's been a few weeks without rain. Early morning is time to water so your lawn can dry throughout the day. Deep, infrequent watering is the most beneficial for deep root growth.

“Leaving leaves in their place can seem like a great way to enhance the soil and give it rich nutrients. In fact, dead leaves can catch excess moisture and leave wet spots on the lawn giving rise to moss, mold, and other destructive plant life that can wreck your grass. Gather all of your leaves and get rid of them. If you want to ensure nutrient-rich soil, create a compost pile using the raked leaves as the start. That way, you can control how the leaves get dispersed over the lawn as fertilizer.”



When our St. Augustine lawns become more shaded, and winter weeds have infested our shade- and drought-affected lawns, you may consider Sustainable Winter Turf (SWT) by accepting a winter turf dominated by such desirable weeds as horseherb, rescue grass and annual bluegrass. Annual bluegrass, rescue grass and other winter weed grasses will naturalize in shady areas where your St. Augustine grass is thin. Instead of trying to prevent them with a pre-emergent herbicide mow them every two weeks. The Sustainable Winter Turf will look great until about April 1.

Try to stay off the lawn.

It may be tempting to walk across your lawn as a shortcut, but use the designated walking paths if possible. Turf grass is pretty resilient, but it can still get worn down if it's repeatedly trampled on. Also, your lawn isn't going to do so well if you park your car on it.

Use stray leaves to your advantage.

A few stray leaves won't be enough to kill your lawn, but if there are so many leaves that you can't even see your grass anymore, you may have a problem on your hands. Not only can a solid blanket of leaves suffocate your lawn, but it can provide warmth and shelter for a variety of lawn nuisances like rodents, fungi, and insects.

Looking for turf grass? St Augustine Raleigh is now available in large quantities at Milberger's Nursery. We also have the four most common varieties of Bermuda in stock as well as limited quantities of Zoysia. Refer to the Turf Grass and Sod page of our web site milbergernursery.com for current availability and pricing. Or talk to our sod and turf grass experts when you are at Milberger's.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Planting Shade Trees To Cool Your Home And Save Energy

Proper landscaping design with the right shade tree choices can keep your home cooler and reduce energy consumption too? Air conditioners need to work only half as much for cooling a fully shaded house than in a house that has its walls and roof exposed to the sun. In fact studies confirm that the average U.S. household can save about 15% to 35% yearly in energy costs.

A shade tree works much better at providing shade than an interior blind or curtain. Trees block the sun from the windows, exterior walls and roof, which reduces the solar radiation that heats up our homes and businesses.

Shaded walls can be cooler by nearly 9° to 36°F than unshaded surfaces. Cooler walls result in less heat permeating buildings. Trees absorb water through their roots and evaporate it through leaf pores, which can cool the air. This process, better known as evapotranspiration, can reduce summer temperatures by 2° to 9°F.

It is important that you place your trees where they will provide the optimal shade on your home in the

summer. When the sun rises, it is not as hot so there is not as much need to shade the east side of your house. The west and south-west directions, however, receive direct sun during the afternoons. That is the side of your house that needs the most protection. Plant

deciduous (sheds leaves in fall) trees on the south and west sides of your home to provide shade to walls, windows and roof during the hot months.

Plants that shade your AC unit will increase its cooling efficiency. Here you can use small trees, shrubs and even vines that can be trained to grow up a protective trellis. Do not

plant too closely to your AC unit because it needs air movement to function well.

Fall and winter is the right time to evaluate the placement and density of trees to create needed shade. Trees and shrubs planted in this time of year have time to develop strong root systems before they face the stress of our hot and dry summer season when their shade is most beneficial.



Southern Live Oak, the state tree of Texas, is a large growing and long-lived shade tree. When given enough room to grow, their sweeping limbs plunge toward the ground before shooting upward, creating an impressive array of branches. Unlike most oak trees which are deciduous, southern live oaks are nearly evergreen. They replace their leaves over a short period of several weeks in the spring.

NOVEMBER GARDENING TIPS

Growing in South Texas' Second Spring

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 seed mixes 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 seasonal tips and ideas for your garden beds and landscape visit our web site at www.milbergernursery.com or stop by the nursery and talk to one of our South Texas.

We're Going Green!

We will no longer print and mail the black and white version of this, our GARDENING NEWSLETTER for SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS.

Milberger's has been proud to print and mail this popular newsletter to our subscribers since December 2003. But the black and white images just didn't do justice to the beauty that Texas offers its gardeners. So this is the last black and white issue that we will be mailing.

We're Going Full Color!

The FREE Full Color version of this Newsletter will be available to you at absolutely no cost.

Every month (except January) you will be able to find and download this publication from our website **MilbergerNursery.com** or, if you prefer, have it delivered to your in box.

eMail Address _____

We always respect your privacy. Your email address will never be shared with anyone who is not associated with Milberger's Nursery.

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

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



Christmas Trees

Milberger's will have the freshest, most reliable selection of Christmas Trees in San Antonio. Fresh cut. Displayed and kept in water.

In the nursery after Thanksgiving



A member of the primrose family, **Cyclamen** are an all-star winterblooming plant for the shade. Late October thru early November is the ideal time to plant and establish cyclamen. These plants are so gorgeous that everyone who has grown them in the past greatly enjoys them. The flowers stand above the attractive three-inch heart-shaped leaves.