

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

OCTOBER 2022

PLANT QUESTIONS

When will the pecan branches quit falling?

Most pecan trees are loaded with nuts and extra foliage. Branch breakage will slow down when the pecans fall in October and November.

Is it too early to plant snapdragons? October is a good time to plant snapdragons. It gives the plants time to develop some size before cold weather arrives. Petunias are also desirable to plant now. They do not have as much cold tolerance as snapdragons, but they bloom better until cold weather arrives. In addition to petunias and snapdragons, plant stock, dianthus, and calendula now. Wait until November to plant pansies, primula and cyclamen.

When is a good time to start feeding sunflower seeds to the birds again? I like to begin between October 15 and November 1. Keep feeding the humming-birds sugar water until late November.

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.

Double-Knockout™ Roses bloom continuously from spring through late fall and, if fed regularly, it can be absolutely covered in red blooms. It is a rather low-maintenance and pest-resistant rose. Do not let it dry out between watering for best results. Deadheading is not necessary for this Texas Superstar™ plant.



ROSES UNDER A HARVEST MOON

Fall and Winter Rose Care

By Sue Adee, Master Gardener

Although South Central Texas is usually warm in the fall, it's time to prepare your roses for winter. Your roses will need one- to two-inches of water each week during the fall growing season. As cold weather sets in, you can reduce the amount of water, but do not allow your roses to completely dry out.

You should continue spraying for black spot fungus, watch for insects, and treat only if a problem develops. Use pesticides labeled for the pests you are targeting, and follow label directions. You should have stopped fertilizing your roses back in August. To slow down the plant growth and allow the plant to harden off, leave the rose hips on the bush after the last blooming cycle. Add additional mulch to protect roots and conserve moisture. Roses grown in containers need to be put in the ground, container and all, in a protected area of the yard.

(MORE 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.

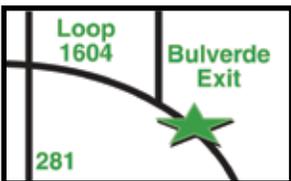
OCTOBER GARDENING EVENTS

Sat., Oct 1 starts at 10AM FREE SEMINAR Turfgrass Basics & Shade Trees. It is time to get your lawn ready for winter and it's time to plant shade trees. Join David Rodriguez for our fall Earth-Kind seminar. This seminar will address the needs of your specific landscape and will include a question-and-answer session.

Earth-Kind combines organic and traditional principles that help homeowners create lush yet environmentally safe gardens and landscapes. They are research-proven techniques that are successful and preserve and protect the environment.

Sat., Oct 29 from 10:30AM 'til 3PM Milberger's Fall Blood Drive. Give the gift of life. The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center will be here at the nursery to conduct our regularly scheduled Fall Blood Drive. Milberger will give a \$10 gift certificate to everyone offering to donate, plus a gift from the center. Please plan to participate. For an appointment call 210-757-9505 or go to <https://donor.southtexasblood.org>

Sat. Oct 29 ~ 10am 'til 3pm FREE Vision Screening for Kids. Milberger's Nursery is hosting Lions Club's KidSight MOBILE EYE SCREENING UNIT where you can have your kids vision screened by trained and State certified Lions using a small hand-held camera. In just a few seconds, this non-evasive method quickly detect early vision problems. For children 6 months to 5 years old. Bring your used Eyeglasses for the Lions Club to recycle. Contact Pantusa, 210-326-3915



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
October Features**

Autumn in South Texas

IT'S THE BEST SEASON FOR PLANTING
Trees & Shrubs
Bedding Plants
Garden Vegetables



It's Coming Soon!



**It's growing and growing.
Come see for yourself!**



**Milberger's Halloween Blood Drive
Sat., Oct 29 from 10am 'til 3:00pm**

By appointment only. Contact South Texas Blood & Tissue Center or watch for the sign-up link to be posted on our website.

Planning for a Water Garden?

Milberger's has Pumps for your water garden, Koi, 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

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ROSES UNDER A HARVEST MOON

Pruning Your Fall Roses

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Pruning of roses is actually done year-round. The fall pruning is lighter than in the spring and consists of removing twiggy and unproductive growth along with any crossing or dead canes. All foliage is left on the bush at this time.

Climbers are not pruned in the same manner as Hybrid Teas. To encourage growth of more flowering laterals and stimulate production of new canes, you

“Fall is ideal for rose blooms. Cooler temperatures stimulate rose bush growth and intensify the color of the rose blooms. Many people do not prepare their roses for this second spring, so they miss the most spectacular, longest-lasting bloom period.”

~ Dr. Jerry Parsons



Pruning roses should be an annual part of plant maintenance because it helps promote new growth and maintains their vigor. Pruning helps promote growth and thins the plant to allow access to sun and airflow. It also encourages new breaks to come from the base of the plant.

should not cut back long canes unless they are outgrowing the allotted space. Varieties differ in this respect since some will produce new canes from the base each year, while others build up a woody structure and produce long, new canes from a position higher up on the plant.

For everblooming varieties, cut back to two or three bud eyes all laterals that bore flowers during the past year. Remove any dead, diseased or twiggy growth. For established plants, oldest canes are removed annually at the base. Remaining canes are repositioned and secured, if necessary.

Ramblers and once-blooming varieties should be pruned after blooming as they will normally bloom on year-old wood. Thus, after spring bloom, cut out old, unproductive wood and weak canes.

LAWNCARE

Deer Proofing Your Lawn

By Nathan Metzger, Lawn Care Guide blog

Deer are elegant animals and many homeowners enjoy seeing them graze in nearby fields. However, when they are munching on prize tulips or scratching up the backyard in search of acorns, they can be viewed as pests. You can deer proof your lawn with a few proactive steps that will protect your turf, garden and flower beds. No method comes with a guarantee. Hungry deer are resourceful and desperate.

Fencing areas that you do not want deer to infiltrate and graze is the most effective way to handle them. You can fence your entire yard, if that's in the budget, or simply fence your vegetable garden or the areas nearest to your home where your flower beds and the shrubs deer find so tasty are located. Deer can easily jump a four-foot fence. A six-foot fence is better. Many of you won't want to fence the yard because you consider fencing, even decorative types, an eyesore. Others live in neighborhoods with regulations restricting fencing. You have other options.

Deer repellent sprays are designed keep deer out with the use of smells they find unpleasant. Part of the problem is that you may find them unpleasant as well. They are best used at the boundaries of your property rather than on the shrubs next to your deck chairs. Choose a dry day to apply area

repellents. Spray the entire trunk of small-diameter trees. Spray the leafy foliage below six feet on larger trees. It will also help if you keep the branches of large trees trimmed above six feet, the typical upper height at which deer can feed.

Contact repellent is a non-toxic spray that is applied directly on the plants that you want to protect. Contact repellent won't harm your plants or the deer either. There is a wide variety of contact deer repellents produced including those that contain bitter apple or pepper products. Some people try their own concoction from recipes which can be found online. Making them can be time-consuming, messy and even expensive. Be sure to thoroughly wash anything that has been sprayed before you eat it.



They may be pretty to look at but they can be disastrous to your gardens and your landscapes. Texas Parks and Wildlife estimates that deer are responsible for millions of dollars in residential landscape damage every year.

Looking for turf grass? St Augustine Raleigh is available at Milberger's Nursery. We also have limited quantities of Bermuda and Zoysia varieties. 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 the nursery.

FALL GARDENING

Time to Tackle Transplanting

By Erin Conant, SAWS Conservation Consultant

Fall in San Antonio is generally beautiful and happens to be the most favorable time of the year to relocate your existing plants. Both the weather and the soil are cooler, creating a less stressful environment.

Here are a few basic guidelines that apply to most transplanting situations.

Timing: Mild temperatures mean less stress on the plant, giving it a better chance of survival. Your planting area should be well prepared, especially the soil.

Digging: Make your planting hole about twice as wide, but the same depth as the root ball. Planting too deep can cause poor root growth, disease and ultimately death in transplants.

“Perennials should be divided and transplanted every three years. When perennials are too crowded they produce less flowers and wilt easily because too many roots are vying for water and soil nutrients. Among the perennials that require dividing and transplanting are: daylilies, Shasta daisies, Bearded irises and Spider lilies.”

~ Rebecca, The Experiential Gardener

Planting: Trim or pull apart any matted or tangled roots within the root ball and then trim the roots so that they aren't bent and fit nicely inside the planting space. You may also need to lightly trim the top of the plant to compensate for the missing roots.



Now that the nights are beginning to cool down, petunias, snapdragons, calendulas, alyssum as well as ornamental kale and cabbages can be planted. Consider adding fall-blooming perennials such as chrysanthemums, Mexican bush sage and ornamental grasses to your landscape.

Filling: Fill the planting space with the original soil, making sure to keep it the same level as the surrounding soil.

And of course, finish off by thoroughly soaking the area with water and adding about two inches of mulch. This conserves moisture and reduces the need to water as often.

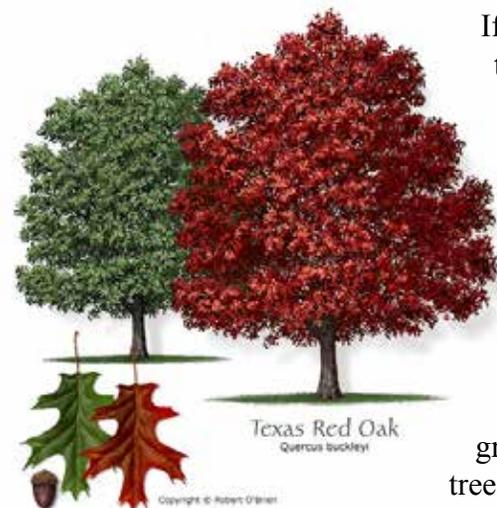
SAWS, the San Antonio Water System, is dedicated to providing their customers with healthy landscapes—now and in the future—by conserving our precious water resources. You can find tips on caring for your landscape, conservation programs and rebates on their web site www.saws.org.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Just Like New England

By Dr. Calvin Finch

It won't be long before we start seeing film clips and photos of autumn color in New England on the news. You can experience fall color in the Hill Country at Lost Maples State Park and other similar sites. If you work at it, your own landscape can have good fall color. Now is the beginning of the best tree and shrub planting period. If you are considering new plantings and like fall color, consider selecting trees that can provide that color. You have many to choose from. Here are three of the most popular choices.



If it is a larger tree that you want then consider, **Texas Red Oak** (also called Spanish Oak) is a great choice. This is a fast growing shade tree, but it is also a high quality tree.

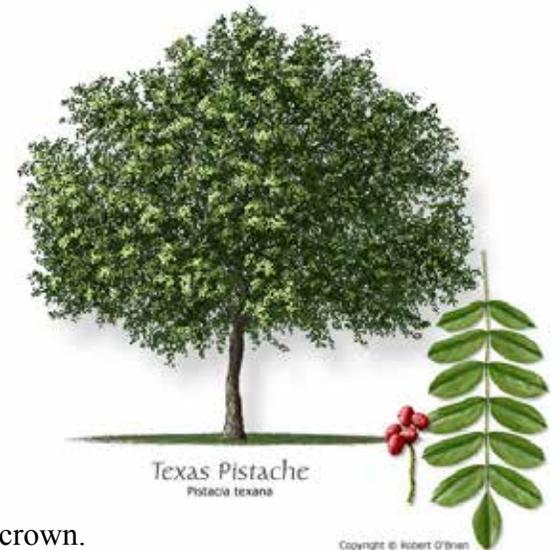
High quality means it is long lived and is not prone to breakage or disease. Texas red oak has a crown just a little more upright than live oak. The branching is even attractive when the leaves have dropped. Texas red oak reaches 50 or 60 feet tall and at least that wide so allow it plenty of room to grow.

Chinese pistache has good fall color. Of all the trees described it probably has the most variation in the autumn color. Most become a flat red color, but others will show orange or even yellow. The same tree can vary in foliage color from year to year based on the weather. Chinese pistache is a fast growing tree in the league with Texas red oak. It starts out

being very vertical, with very little side branching, but eventually forms a very round disciplined crown.

Chinese pistache has the sexes on separate trees. A female has berries every year that are favorites of the birds. Pistache like well drained soil. It can live and even prosper on heavy soils, but during wet years it will turn color in the spring or summer. Homeowners become quite worried because of the garish leaf color, but the tree always seems to return to normal.

Chinkapin oak grows moderately fast and has yellow fall color. The species is more upright than Texas Red Oak and therefore less wide. It is just as tall as Texas red oak. Chinkapin oak is in the white oak family so is not prone to have oak wilt. It is fussier than Texas Red Oak about soil. Chinkapin oak requires well drained soil. It grows better in caliche soils than in the black clays.



OCTOBER GARDENING TIPS

Fall Landscaping and Tree Planting

Dr. Jerry Parsons

October is a great time for gardening and landscaping. Many plants can be set out now, and this is the perfect time to be replacing plants lost due to the summer drought.

Plant flowers: The most popular of the cool season flowering annuals to be set out now are pansies. There are so many types and colors of pansies that it might be hard to pick just one. There are pastel shades, varieties with no faces, and miniature flowers, so you should have no trouble finding one you like. One tip for flowering annuals – the brighter the color, like reds or yellows, the easier they will be seen from a distance. Blues are best viewed up close.

Besides pansies, other bedding plants that can be planted now include dianthus, flowering cabbage and kale, snapdragons, violas, and calendulas.

Wildflowers and seeded annuals like California poppy, oriental poppy, larkspur and bluebonnets should be sown early this month.

October is also a great month to divide and plant spring-blooming perennials like native columbines, daylilies,

phlox, Louisiana and bearded irises, dianthus, coreopsis, coneflowers and daisies. If you have extras after dividing, give to or trade with a gardening friend or neighbor.

Trees and Shrubs: The fall season is also a perfect time to establish new trees and shrubs. Plants set out now undergo less stress, and their roots have months to grow and become established before spring growth begins and summer heat and drought arrive next year.

Fertilize: October is time for the most important lawn fertilization of the year – application of a winterizer fertilizer to condition the grass for winter survival. Wait until the lawn grass slows growth and mowing every two weeks is adequate before applying. A light application of garden-type fertilizer will boost annual and perennial flowering plants.

Grass: Tall fescue and ryegrass can also be planted in early October. It is too late to sow Bermuda or centipede seed. Beware that armyworms could quickly devour newly sprouted ryegrass.

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

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HOW TO

Take Oranges Off Your Tree

Oranges are among the easiest fruits to harvest. When the fruit is no longer green, check it for ripeness by pulling off, peeling and tasting one of the oranges from your tree.

- 🍃 Your fruit begins to fall off the trees when it is ripe. You can't tell just by the color, so pull one orange off and taste it. If it tastes sweet and fresh and is juicy, it is probably ready to harvest.
- 🍃 Grasp a ripe orange in your hand and gently twist it until it detaches from the tree. Avoid using too much force when detaching the fruit so you don't damage the branch.
- 🍃 Use scissors or plant snips to clip the stems as an alternative to pulling the oranges off the tree. This is the best choice if the orange peel tears when you try to pull the fruit off the tree by hand.
- 🍃 Gather recently fallen fruit from the ground. If it is still firm and uniformly colored, with unbroken skin, it should be fine to eat.



The prime harvest month of citrus in San Antonio is December. The advantage of harvesting fruit before December is that if your tree is full of satsumas, lemons, limes, tangerines, and/or grapefruit, you can be overwhelmed with fruit at that time. Better to spread out the harvest October to December. *Photo of Dr Alabi, Texas AgriLife Extension Plant Pathologist.*



The **Fall Aster** provides a colorful display when other flowering plants may have run out of steam. The plants mound around two to three feet by sending out stolens. This deeply colored plant is suitable for sunny locations, but adapts to lightly shaded areas. It is drought tolerant and has no pest or disease problems. It is very easy to divide after blooms die back and plant throughout your garden for lovely fall color. It will bloom the season following division. After blooms have died back, cut plant back to the ground. Asters tolerate acidic, rocky or sandy soils. Thin regularly to control spread.