

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 2022

PLANT QUESTIONS

My mother sent me some iris bulbs but I will not have my garden ready until next spring. Can I put them in large pots and transplant them next fall after my gardens are ready? That is a good idea. Perennials which bloom in the spring are divided and planted in the fall so if you plant the bulbs in containers, you should have blooming iris in your containers next spring.

The Burford Hollies I planted last fall lost their lower leaves this summer. There is still green growth at the top. Will they survive? Water stress from transplant shock or from lack of sufficient watering could have caused the bottom leaves to fall. Fear not! The Burford holly is one of the best and will come back. I would cut them lower in February or early spring just prior to the initiation of new growth. This will result in re-foliation

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.



Perennials, like these **daylilies**, will produce more flowers if they are divided periodically. In South Texas this is the best time to divide your daylilies. Their roots will have time to grow before winter comes if this task is completed in early September. Division is also a great way to expand your planting and share plants with gardening friends.

GARDENING EXPERTISE

Fall is the Time to Divide and Transplant Perennials

By Rebecca, The Experiential Gardner

Fall is the best time to divide and plant your perennial flowers so that they have time to develop good, strong root systems for spring bloom. Perennials are plants with a life cycle of three or more years, compared to an annual that lives for one year. Perennials should be divided and transplanted every three years. When perennials are too crowded they produce fewer 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

(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.

GARDENING EVENTS AT THE NURSERY

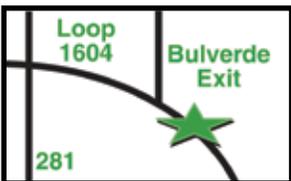
Sat., Sept 10 starts at 10am **FREE SEMINAR**
Growing Cool Weather Crops

It's not just spring. 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. Preparing your fall vegetable garden presented by David Rodriguez, Extension Horticulturist for Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service. David will answer your specific questions about your gardening issues. Bring a notebook.

Sat., Oct 1 starts at 10am **FREE SEMINAR**
Turfgrass Basics & Shade Trees

Getting your lawn ready for winter. And it's time to plant shade trees. Free Adult Earth-Kind Educational Seminar presented by David Rodriguez, Extension Horticulturist for Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service at Milberger's.

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. Techniques include using composting to improve existing soil conditions, proper mowing, effective irrigation methods that conserve water and using plant materials that are less susceptible to insects and diseases.



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Or on the World Wide Web at
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Milberger's Nursery
September Features

Take Advantage of South Texas'



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Shade Trees

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To have your gardening questions answered during show hours ONLY

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GARDENING EXPERTISE

Dividing and Transplanting Perennials

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Bearded Irises grow 16" to 24" depending on variety. Space 12" apart. Blooms in the spring. Your foliage will remain green year-round.

Spider lilies grow 12" to 18" tall. Space them six inches apart. Spider lily blooms emerge from a single stalk in September followed by green foliage that grows until late spring and then dies back down only to repeat the process all over again beginning next September. Plant shorter annual flowers in front of spider lilies since they have short-lived, but spectacular blooms.

Daylilies grow 16" to 24" tall depending on the variety. Space 12" apart and they will bloom in the spring and fall. The tops of the daylilies will die down after the first frost of winter and will re-emerge in spring from the roots.

Shasta Daisies can grow up to 36" tall (Alaska variety). Space 12" apart and they will bloom from

late May into the fall. Varieties like Alaska will stay green in the Texas flower bed year-round. Trim off spent flowers or deadhead your flowers to prolong the bloom season.

Water your perennials well after planting and when the soil dries. All of these perennial flowers grow best in full sun, in a southern or eastern location in well-drained soil. To reinvigorate your soil, add some organic humus to the garden bed and dig it into the old soil.

The most important part of planning the perennial bed is to plant the taller plants behind the shorter plants and leave enough space between the individual plants. Also plant shorter blooming spring and winter annual flowers in front of the perennials so that there are beautiful flowers blooming in the bed year-round. Spring annual flowers that look nice in front of the perennials are vinca, dwarf marigolds, short zinnias and rose moss. Winter flowers that look nice in front of the perennials are dianthus and pansies.



Dig the clump of crowded perennials out of the ground. Gently remove extra dirt from the roots with your hands exposing the individual plants that need to be separated. While holding the roots only, gently divide the daylily plants from each other.



Like many perennials, **Spider lilies** grow from bulbs that separate easily from each other. Do not hold the green parts of the plant. Hold the bulbs in your hands as you separate them from each other.

Rebecca, the *Experiential Gardener*, has been gardening in Texas for over 40 years. She shares her gardening experience on a well-documented and very detailed blog at www.experientialgardener.com, that includes videos and illustrated step-by-step guides to her gardening techniques.

LAWNCARE

Fall Lawn Preparation

By Bill Keldorf, Master Gardener

The massive drought conditions in most of the whole state of Texas make it extremely important to treat for new grass growth next spring. Late September and early October is the best time to strengthen and prepare your lawn for strong root growth this winter and next spring. The prolonged droughts dramatically effected grasses of all kinds, and proper replacement and additions after recent rains are vital for survival. You need to work in the following three areas: fall diseases, pre-emergence weed control, and feeding.

Fall Diseases: Some lawns may be suffering from Brown Patch and Take-All Root Rot which are two fairly common fungal diseases that affect St Augustine grasses. Both could become active once the severe, intense stress your lawn has endured due to the terrible summer heat gives way to milder, wetter weather.

Pre-emergent Herbicide: Fall and winter weeds such as henbit, chickweed, or bluegrass may best be controlled now with a pre-emergent herbicide.

Feeding: In order to “over-winter” lawns/ grasses, an even application of a 18-16-12 winterizer fertilizer now will give a strong boost to your spring growth.



The key is to mow often enough so that no more than one-third of the leaf blade is removed at any one time. For example, if the lawn is being mowed at a two-inch height, then once it reaches a three-inch height, it is time to mow, according to Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialists. (Texas AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Brent Bean.)

However, do not overdo it. Lush, thick growth is more susceptible to fungal problems now and frost later. Since most fertilizers are basically salts, be sure you water in thoroughly.

Fall Lawn Tips:

- ☘ Water during the winter: a half -inch per week if rainfall is lacking.
- ☘ Aerify your established lawn to allow water, food and air to get through to the roots.
- ☘ Don't “scalp” your lawn in the fall. Mow your grass regularly and leave at least two-inches high.
- ☘ Get a proper soil test, which is available from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Evaluate and apply fertilizer and as indicated by the results of the report.

Remember that almost all grasses go dormant in Texas during the winter. On rare occasions, lawns in Southeast and South Texas may remain green all year round, but most are only partially green in areas where buildings and trees protect your lawn from cold winds. Texas winters simply are too cold for grass blades to remain green all year.

Mulches are the best way to keep your soils moist and weeds at bay. You will find excellent quality mulches at Milberger's Nursery for all of your landscape and flower beds. It won't float away and when you apply at least two-inches of mulch to all your landscape and around trees to protect your landscape.

FALL VEGETABLE GARDEN

Vegetables All Winter

By Dr. Calvin Finch

Many gardeners think the cool weather vegetable garden is superior to the spring garden. It certainly can be productive. Now is the time to plant the vegetables to harvest through the winter and into early spring. Here are a few choices to consider. Some do well in containers if you have enough sun on your patio. All vegetables do best in full sun.

Broccoli has emerged as the most popular winter vegetable. Plant transplants now and you will be harvesting heads before Christmas and until February. Broccoli is a very nutritious and productive vegetable.

“Fall vegetable crops are categorized as long-term and short-term crops based on the cold tolerance of the vegetables. Plant short-term, frost-susceptible vegetables together, so they can be removed after being killed by frost.”

~ David Rodriguez ,
County Extension Agent-Horticulture for Bexar County.

Carrots are planted by seed. They are also very nutritious and productive. Carrots can be harvested as you need them. They will last until late spring and they are not usually bothered with insects or diseases.



Shallots are a cool-weather vegetable usually grown from cloves, not seeds. The shallot is a member of the onion family, a very hardy biennial grown as an annual. Shallots grow to about eight inches tall in a clump with narrow green leaves and roots that look like small onions, about ½ inch in diameter at maturity. Shallots are more delicate flavored than regular onions. Young outer leaves can be used like chives.

Leaf lettuce is one of the best vegetables to grow in containers because it is small and very decorative. The toughest thing about growing lettuce is to get it to germinate. Lettuce will re-grow if you harvest it leaf-by-leaf and leave some leaves on each plant as the season progresses.

In my opinion, **English peas** are the most difficult of the winter vegetables to grow. Our weather is often too hot or too cold to get good germination and/or harvest a crop.

Radishes are the fastest winter vegetables to produce a crop. The seeds germinate in three to five days and you can be harvesting the crisp roots in three weeks. Gardeners that like to have fresh radishes on their table all winter will plant a row every four weeks.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Fall is Tree and Shrub Planting Time

By Dr. Douglas F. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

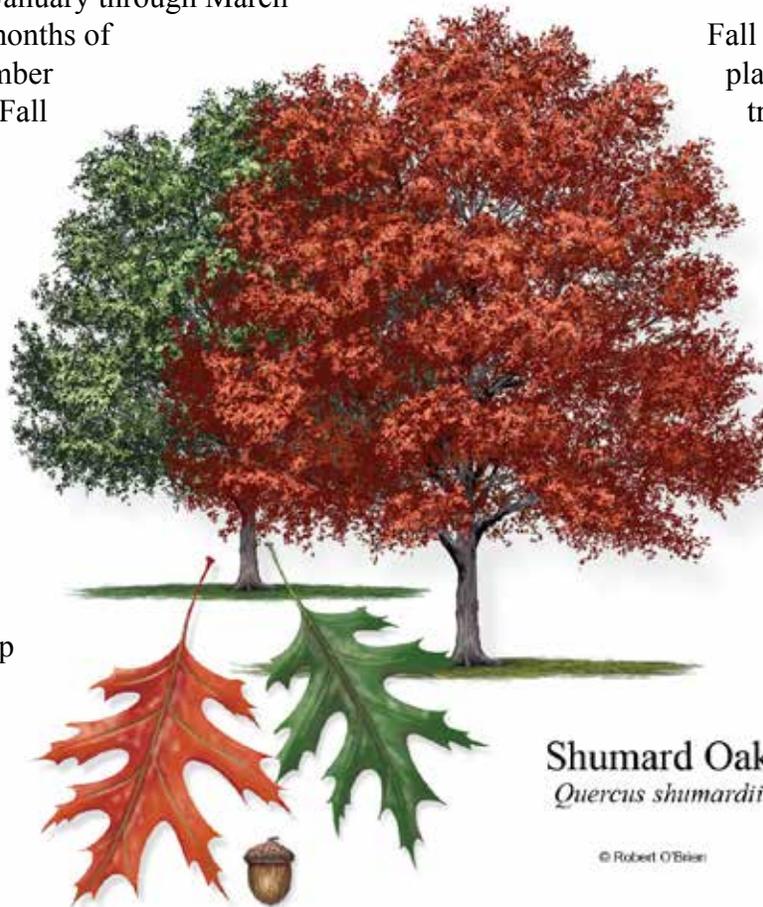
It is September and fall has arrived in South Central Texas. The weather is becoming slightly cooler. Now is a perfect time to add a new tree or a grouping of shrubs to the landscape. Or perhaps you have an area in the landscape that needs “remodeling” or rejuvenating. The fall may be the best season to plant, surpassing even the spring.

Some people may prefer January through March for planting, but the fall months of September through December have distinct advantages. Fall planting follows the heat of summer, before a cool winter season, and trees and shrubs planted in the fall use this to good advantage. Plant roots grow anytime the soil temperature is 40 degrees or higher, which may occur all winter in Texas. During the winter months, the root systems of the fall-planted specimens develop and become established. When spring arrives, this expanded root system can support and take advantage of the full surge of spring growth.

The deciduous Cedar Elm is the most common elm tree in Texas, distributed widely in East, South, and Central Texas. It's

Shumard Red Oak is an upright shade tree which can attain a height of 120 feet. In Texas, it is commonly found on rich bottomland soils, moist woods and along streams. It is fast-growing, with an open canopy and stout spreading branches. Leaves are a rich green that turns scarlet in the fall. Like most other oaks, Shumard red oaks have thin bark when they're young. When you bring them home and plant them, their thin-barked trunks are suddenly exposed to intense summer sun. To prevent early bark crack you can wrap the trunk with paper tree wrap for a couple years and you will have a strong shade tree for a lifetime.

most often found near streams, in solid stands on flatwoods near rivers, or on dry limestone hills. Also planted widely as a landscape tree. Flowers appear in late summer or autumn as hairy, short-stalked clusters in the leaf axils. A large tree will grow up to 75 feet tall with a straight trunk two to three feet in diameter and stiff branches that will form a narrow, oblong crown.



Shumard Oak
Quercus shumardii

© Robert O'Brien

Fall is the optimum time to plant balled and burlapped trees and shrubs. Balled and burlapped plants have ample time to recover from transplanting and proliferate roots before spring growth begins. Remember, however, all bare root plants, including roses and pecan and fruit trees, should be planted in late winter when they are completely dormant.

All plants have growing requirements. Think about the plant's needs before you invest. Is it adapted to your area's soil? Will it grow in sun or shade? Does it need a wet or dry location? Is it cold hardy? You can find this information on tags beside the plant. If not, ask one of the South Texas landscape experts at Milberger's Nursery.

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. Three to four 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 website. 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.

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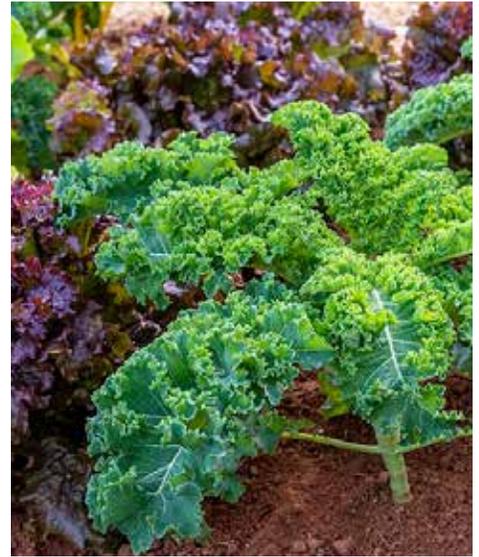
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HOW TO

Grow Kale and Spinach

Kale and spinach grow well together in a combined winter garden because they share the same cultural requirements. The plants grow quickly, with both greens usually ready for the first harvest within 50 to 70 days. Plant fall crops when the average daily temperature drops below 75°F.

- ☞ Sow kale and spinach seeds three inches apart and a half inch deep. Leave 18 inches of space between kale rows and 12 inches between spinach rows.
- ☞ Mist the bed with water to keep the top few inches of soil moist until the seeds germinate, which takes around seven days.
- ☞ Thin the seedlings after the seeds germinate and produce their second set of leaves so both the kale and spinach in the row sit 12 inches apart.
- ☞ Weed between the plants once or twice a week so you remove weed seedlings before they have a chance to establish and compete with the kale and spinach. Hoe between plants to break up the top one-inch of soil to prevent weeds from taking hold, or pull all weeds by hand.



Kale and spinach both provide a reliable leafy green in the cooler seasons. In mild climates, where temperatures rarely drop below 20°F, both vegetables can produce through the winter.



Here in South Central Texas, **Calendula** should be planted in the fall in full sun. They will grow during a mild winter and reward you with early bright orange, sometimes yellow flowers that bloom steadily and can be harvested as needed. With sunflower-like shades of yellow or orange your Calendula will last well into next fall. It is low maintenance and is sometimes confused with Marigold, they're both little cousins of the Sunflower family.