

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

MAY 2016

PLANT QUESTIONS

I have a bougainvillea that has been in the ground for about 1 ½ years. Can I move it to a sunnier location? You should be able to relocate your bougainvillea at this time. It may be necessary to cut back some of the new growth if it is already excessive.

Our peppers are not growing. We have fertilized, and the garden is in full sun. Is there an issue you can think of? I think everyone's peppers are reacting the same way to the relatively cool weather. They require more heat than tomatoes. Be patient.

My friends have a nice, attractive mulberry tree, full of birds. Why don't people plant more mulberries? Mulberries are a great wildlife food source but they don't rate high as a landscape tree. They are invasive and the wood is soft and breakage is common.

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.



Gold Star esperanza have begun blooming and will bloom until Thanksgiving. The Gold Star selection boasts of superior blooming characteristics. Esperanza is very drought tolerant and pest free. Deer do not eat esperanza but hummingbirds like the blooms as a source of nectar.

GARDENING EXPERTISE

Perennials That Bloom in Our Summer Heat

Summer gardeners are fond of perennials – plants that come back year after year. They provide a dependable background for colorful seasonal annuals that must be replaced every year. If chosen carefully the hardiest perennials will give you waves of reliable color throughout spring well into fall. While perennially blooming plants may need tending to show their best value, buying and planting a plant only once makes them a great investment. Many perennials favored by gardeners in our part of Texas are heat and drought tolerant and many gardeners are not likely to spend time and effort on finicky plants requiring extra work. Experienced gardeners have learned the lesson of putting the right plant in the right place to keep their garden beds looking their best. May is a good time to plant the heat-tolerant, summer-blooming perennials.

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.

MAY GARDENING EVENTS

Fri., May 6 – 5:30 - 8:30 pm

National Public Gardens Day at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Bring a picnic and enjoy strolling the Garden after normal operating hours. See the Storybook Houses exhibit and the Garden in beautiful spring bloom. 555 Funston. 210-829-5360

Mon., May 9 - 7 pm

San Antonio Rose Society Monthly meeting. Learn how to arrange flowers and grow roses here in the Hill Country. Free and open to the public. San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N New Braunfels, 210-313-3371

Sat., May 28 – 10-11 am

Beautiful Bees, Milberger’s Kids Gardening Class will learn how a bee hive works and how they are important for our plants and flowers. At the nursery. Kids classes are free but call to reserve a spot because class size is limited: 210-497-3760

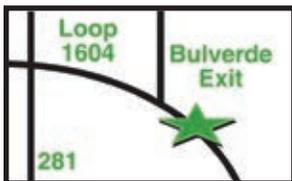
Sat., May 28 – 10:30 - Noon

Citrus Trees for your Patio and Landscape. You can successfully grow bountiful citrus from trees planted in your landscape or in containers. Learn how to be successful with citrus at this FREE Earth-Kind Seminar presented by David Rodriguez, at the nursery. 210-497-3760

Sat., May 28 – 9am - 5pm

San Antonio Festival of Flowers. San Antonio’s premiere gardening event! City wide plant exchange, seminars, plants sales, Floral Design Challenge, Rain barrel demonstrations, Ask The Experts booth . . . and much much more. \$6 admission (under 10 free)

**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 Valero 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
May Features**

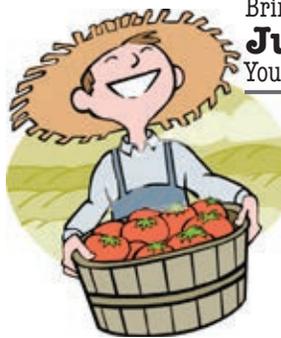
MAY is One of the most **COLORFUL TIMES** OF THE YEAR

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 Milbergers **June 11 – before noon**
You could win in one of four categories:



**CHERRY TOMATOES
Large Tomatoes
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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:
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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**

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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GARDENING EXPERTISE

Summer Perennials

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Look to some of these heat tolerant perennial plants for reliable summer color in your landscape.

Pride of Barbados, or Poinciana, is also very drought tolerant. It has a layered airy look that produces glow-in-the-dark orange and yellow clusters of blooms. Butterflies and hummingbirds like Poinciana, but unfortunately, so do deer. Grow Poinciana in full sun. Once established, it does not require irrigation. Poinciana is often used as a parking lot shrub because of its heat tolerance.

Firebush has small red flowers that cover the shrub after mid-June. Before the flowers begin blooming, the foliage is an attractive maroon green. Firebush works well as a sunny parking lot shrub, along with esperanza and Poinciana, but also is an outstanding container plant. In a 10- to 15-gallon container, it grows to 3 feet tall in a disciplined

“The secret to successful flower gardening in Texas lies in knowing two things: What flowers to grow here, and where to plant them. Once you have answered these questions, you should be able to grow beautiful flowers here.”

round shape. In addition to the colorful foliage and blooms, firebush is one of hummingbirds' favorite plants for nectar. Put firebush in a container on your patio, and the hummingbirds will find it.

In the ground, firebush grows back to 6 feet tall after freezing back each winter. Deer will eat firebush.



Perennials encompass a wide variety of hardy, beautiful and visually interesting plants. Dependable when it comes to planting and transplanting, they're a perfect choice if you're new to gardening or are simply looking for a landscape with year-round interest.

Duranta is also called Brazilian sky flower. It grows to 6 feet tall each summer, often dying back in the winter. The weeping branches are covered with purple or white crinkly blooms across their length. Sometimes butterflies will be so thick on the flowers it will be hard to recognize the plant. Duranta is eaten by the deer, but it is not one of their favorite foods.

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 summer 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 or look for our ads in the **San Antonio Express News**.

LANDSCAPE COLOR FOR SUMMER

Care of Your New Plants

For Healthy Roots and Better Drought Tolerance

Use your water wisely. Water plants when they need it, not by the clock or calendar. Water according to your soil type and the weather. Do not apply water faster than the soil can absorb it. A soaker hose applies water directly to the soil and reduces evaporation. If you are planting a few plants in an existing planting bed, hand watering can be an effective way to get the new plants the water they need, while not overwatering the rest of the bed.

- 🌿 Avoid planting in hot, dry weather, which can easily stress plants. If you must plant in summer, plant in the cool of the morning.
- 🌿 Watering early in the morning means less water is lost to evaporation.
- 🌿 Even drought tolerant plants need regular water until they are established.



How you water your new plants can make all the difference. Deeper, less frequent watering will grow plants whose roots are deeper and healthier, so they are more resilient to drier conditions and stress.

When trimming your new plants best time to trim shrubs is immediately after they have finished blooming. Cut back perennials to the ground after the first frost. Expect your perennials to shrivel up and wilt after the first frost, so it does not hurt it to cut back the dead foliage. The roots will still be under the ground, and produce a new plant the following year.

Mulching in the spring and fall will help protect the roots of the plants and help prevent weeds. Before you apply the mulch, make sure to clean all debris/weeds from the beds. Avoid piling the mulch to close to the stem/trunk of the plant so that it can breathe. The mulch will help keep the weeds to a minimum,

but it's probably a good idea to do a quick weeding of the beds every month.

It's best to fertilize when the ground is wet, whether after it has rained or after you have watered your plants thoroughly. The best time to fertilize is in the spring when the plants are growing, and the fall to supplement the plants through the winter. The summer is too hot and dry, fertilizing could burn the roots of the plants. In the winter the plants go dormant, they are not growing, so there is no need to fertilize.

A visit to Milberger's Nursery will help you get your spring garden going. You will find healthy plant stock that is selected to thrive throughout our South Central Texas summers. You will also find the good advice and creative suggestions for your specific landscape and gardening needs. To see what is on sale each week visit our web site at www.milbergernursery.com or look for our ads in the **San Antonio Express News**.

LAWNCARE

Planting Sod in Your Lawn

Due to the heat of our summers, fresh sod stacked on pallets is a perishable product. The two rules to remember when planting your new grass are:

- 🌱 Plant it quickly – Plant your sod the day it is delivered.
- 🌱 Keep it wet – It is virtually impossible to overwater your newly installed grass the first few days.

Ground preparation: In general, save your energy for watering. Tilling, adding topsoil, prewatering, or chemical additions are unnecessary in most cases and can be harmful in others. You don't have to spoon feed it by tilling or adding different types of topsoil. On the contrary, our native soil benefits the grass in that it keeps water near the root system instead of quickly soaking away into the ground.



Lay your sod in a brick pattern. Offset end seams at least 18 inches for aesthetics. Lay one half and set aside the other for a later row. Continue laying the sod in this manner making sure to butt all seams tightly, almost folding them into each other. Pound the sod into place with your hand if necessary.

“Generally, as soon as the sod is planted water the new sod until the soil is thoroughly soaked. Do not apply the water to run-off. Then water every day or every other day for the first couple of weeks.”

~ James McAfee, Extension Turfgrass Specialist

Watering: You need to keep it wet. More people over water their new sod than not apply enough water. If you keep the new sod soaked for a month, the roots will not grow down into the native soil. Allowing the sod in the soil to dry a little will help encourage the roots to grow down into the native soil. Also, keeping the soil saturated, will eliminate available oxygen for the roots, which will affect active root growth.

Mowing: You could actually mow the day the sod is planted. However, wait until the new turfgrass has grown to a height that is 30 to 40% above the desired mowing height.

Fertilization: Turfgrasses grown in sod farms is generally well fertilized. Newly planted sod usually does not need to be fertilized for at least a month after planting.

Weed Control: You should not apply a herbicide to the new sod until it is well rooted.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Growing Citrus Trees in Containers

By Kathy Finigan, *My Productive Backyard*

Citrus are one of those plants that I think are a must in the garden. They have beautiful dark green foliage all year, sensuously perfumed flowers at various times of the year and then produce fabulously colorful edible fruit. They really are the most perfect garden specimen. Citrus grow well in containers which gives you the ability to move them to different places in your landscape or your deck. Potted up citrus can be moved to protected areas to avoid freezes.

Like all other plants, citrus trees grown in containers plants need more watering than in ground plants because of their restricted root run and although citrus like a hot and sunny position, they also require good soil moisture levels to stay healthy and produce well.

You will need to feed your potted citrus: they are prone to micro nutrient deficiencies, which is exacerbated by the constant watering, so you need to ensure that you apply a fertilizer with a variety of trace elements especially iron manganese and zinc. For citrus in containers I like to apply the rule "A little often" In spring and early autumn I apply slow release organic pellets and then supplement this with regular liquid feeds from early spring through to late autumn. The type of liquid feed I use is

dependent on the growth stage of the plant. When the plant is young, I use a high nitrogen ratio fertilizer to encourage plenty of growth which will develop into a strong branch structure. High nitrogen ratio fertilizers also discourage flower and fruiting which is necessary until the tree is large and strong enough to hold full sized fruit.



No other plant has a more pleasing perfume than the orange blossom fragrance of citrus. Due to fragrant flowers, tasty fruit and beautiful glossy, evergreen foliage, citrus trees make fantastic patio, garage-in-winter plant.

Unless you are espaliering or standardizing your citrus trees they will require very little pruning.

All I do is Tip Pruning in spring to encourage bushiness. Prune to shape by removing wayward growth. Remove any dead or diseased wood.

Most citrus will naturally fall from the tree in February and March if not harvested.

You can visit our on-line tree lot on our web site www.milbergernursery.com where you can browse our tree planting and growing guide. When you visit the tree lot at Milberger's Nursery you will find the largest selection of fresh, well-rooted trees in the area along with free advice and growing tips from our tree experts.

MAY GARDENING AND LAWCARE TIPS

Planting Before the Summer's Heat

By Dr. Jerry Parsons

Plant: Fruit set of many vegetables are sensitive to high temperatures, so plant okra, Southern peas, peanuts, sweet corn, watermelons, cucumbers, squash, cantaloupes and eggplant during the first part of May for best results. High temperatures, both day and night, interfere with pollination and fruit set in many vegetables. Caladiums prefer a loose, well-drained soil with plenty of organic matter.

Plant sun-loving, heat tolerant annual flowers such as portulaca, purslane, copper plants, lantanas, and ornamental peppers.

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 our newly redesigned website: **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**.

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