

MILBERGER LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

THE GARDENING NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

NOVEMBER 2018

PLANT QUESTIONS

Our zinnias are still blooming. The butterflies love them. Can we collect some of the seed from our favorite colors and plant it next spring? Yes, zinnia seed can be collected and planted next spring. To have most success with the early plantings (March) plant the seed in a tray filled with potting soil. When the soil warms up, the seed can be planted directly in the garden.

When should we move our bougainvilleas into the greenhouse? Now is a good time. They do not prosper when temperatures fall below 50° F.

Our stored bird seed from last year is full of weevils. Will the birds eat it? The birds will usually eat it, but I would suggest the infested seed be spread on a platform or the ground rather than placing it in tubular or hopper feeders.

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.



The flowering **quince** is a thorny, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub that can add an element of surprise to your landscape. It has a somewhat messy growth habit but beautiful red, orange, white, or pink flowers, and shiny, dark-green foliage. Related to roses, the thorny habit and easy-to-grow nature make it a good choice for barrier plantings.

LANDSCAPING IDEAS

Add Some Surprises To Your Landscape

Even in south Texas winter is a quiet time for your landscape and garden beds. Now is a good time to reflect on some new ideas that may change-up your landscape or add some variety to your garden. You can make plans now to add warmth, color, and texture to the places you've been meaning to get to. From growing blooming shrubs, to planting annuals and perennials, to deer-proofing your garden, there are many beautiful and wonderful ways to make your home inviting and appealing. You might consider adding height with planters and baskets, and creating spaces where you can enjoy your outdoors in new ways. Here are some landscaping ideas that can be attractive and functional, use them as a starting point to stir your imagination.

(MORE LANDSCAPE IDEAS 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

Sat. & Sun., Oct 27 & 28 – All day
Milberger's Happy Halloween Weekend. Bring your kids for a fun-filled weekend of free Halloween events: Pumpkin Patch and hay maze (open daily during regular nursery hours) . . . and much, much more. See web site for times and details. 210-497-3760

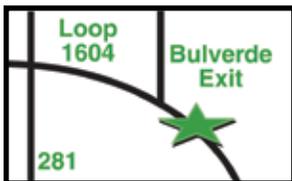
Sat., Oct 27 – 10am 'til 1:30pm
Milberger's Fall Blood Drive. Take advantage of this opportunity to give the gift of life. \$10 Milberger gift certificate to each person willing to donate. 210-497-3760

Sat., Oct 27 – 10am 'til 11
Pumpkin Painting. Free kids class but space is limited. Call to reserve your spot. 210-497-36760

Sat., Dec 1 – All day
Milberger's Christmas Traditions Open House. Bring the family and enjoy a day of fun Christmas activities: caroling, rides on our own Little Red Choo-Choo through the forest of living and fresh-cut Christmas Trees and more.

Sun., Dec 2 – All day
Milberger's Annual Cowboy Christmas. Hot chili and cool music. Live country music with the Texas Weather Band. Face painting & Balloon artists. Roasted corn, pop corn, hot chocolate and Milberger's famous Christmas wassail. All day at the nursery.

**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 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 Monthly Features

Autumn in South Texas

IT'S THE BEST SEASON
FOR PLANTING

Trees & Shrubs
Bedding Plants
Garden Vegetables



Scariier than Ever!

Milberger's Boo-TIQUE & PUMPKIN PATCH



**Saturday and Sunday
October 27 & 28** Milberger's
**HALLOWEEN WEEKEND
EMPLOYEE COSTUME CONTEST**



Bring your kids or all ages and let them run through our **Monster Maze** ride **The Terror Train** or take a memorable photo in our **pumpkin patch**.

A donation from food purchases go directly to the SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK.

**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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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.

LANDSCAPING IDEAS

Add Some Surprises

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Add Height with Planters and Baskets:

Add lovely, eye-catching layers to your yard with elevated planters and hanging baskets. This strategy creates visual interest with minimal effort. Adding elevated planters and hanging baskets also creates a sea of beautiful color from high to low, and the visual effect gives the impression of waves of blossoms rising and falling all across your yard.

“Plant your yardscape to enjoy color year-round. New flowers bursting forth with vibrant seasonal blooms is one of the most exciting times for gardeners and a pleasant surprise for guests.”

Plant Blooming Shrubs: Blossoming shrubs and trees make an incredible impact across a yard, and you can add color in just one lasting step.

And in south Texas you have many to choose from. From oleanders, the hollies to flowering quince you can choose the color and size of shrub that will add the best impact to your landscape.

Hide Outdoor Structures: Sheds, garages, and outdoor workspaces are not always the most attractive accents to your carefully constructed yardscape. Simultaneously hide these structures and make the most of these spaces by using them as a setting for a beautiful display of plants and flowers.

Plan a Garden Surprise: Design small hideaway among your garden beds where people can gather and enjoy a different view of your landscape.



Greet your guests with flowers. Seasonal color will always make a home seem more welcoming. Adorn your entrance with assorted annuals and perennials to keep your home awash with color all year long.

A visit to Milberger's Nursery will help you find healthy plant stock that is selected to thrive in South Central Texas' cool weather. 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**.

WILDFLOWERS

Sow Your Wildflowers This Month

Wildflowers are becoming an increasingly popular landscape alternative by adding color and natural beauty to any area. Unlike the typical European-styled formal gardens of straight lines, square corners and manicured edges, wildflower gardens have the appeal of low maintenance by requiring little water and reduced mowing frequency once established. November is a good time to seed your wildflower stand. If it seeds correctly you will have a stand that re-blooms year after year.

Wildflowers thrive in well drained soils. To prepare the seed bed, rake or lightly till the surface of the soil to a maximum depth of one inch. It is helpful to thoroughly mix a carrier such as masonry sand, perlite, or potting soil with the seed

to increase volume and aid in even distribution over your site. Your wildflowers will need a minimum of eight hours of direct sunlight per day.

To sow seeds broadcast one half of your seed as uniformly as possible over the prepared area. Sow the remaining seed in a direction perpendicular to the initial sowing. Press the seed into the soil by walking or rolling over the newly planted area. Do not cover the seed any deeper than 1/16th of an

inch. Some of the seeds will remain visible. Do not plant wild flowers in clover or grasses that grow during the winter (such as annual rye grass or fescues) as this vegetation will be too aggressive to allow the wild flowers to become established.

Your wildflower seeds will require ample moisture to germinate and develop into healthy seedlings. For best results, the area should be kept moist for 4 to 6 weeks during the establishment period. If

natural rainfall is inadequate, supplemental watering with a garden hose may be necessary. Light and frequent applications of water should be applied to keep the ground moist. Once your wildflowers begin to germinate, do not allow the site to



completely dry out but avoid over watering the area. After your seedlings are 1 to 2 inches in height, watering should be gradually reduced and applied only if the plants show signs of stress. On larger projects that cannot be irrigated, plant in the fall or early spring during the months when rainfall is usually abundant. If adequate moisture is not received by natural rainfall and irrigation is not possible at your planting site, you may run the risk of disappointing results during a dry year.

You can visit **Wildseed Farms** year around at its Hill Country headquarters outside of Fredericksburg. It the nation's largest working wildseed growing operation. You can explore the walking trails among the wildflower fields, watch the farm staff work and take photos of the 200 acres of cultivated wildflowers blooming as the seasons dictate.

GARDENING WITH BULBS

Layering Bulbs Growing With The Lasagna Bulb Method

Lasagna gardening is a method of layering bulbs and planting materials to easily get the most yield from a small area of your garden bed or in containers. By bulbs in layers, you can look forward to wave after wave of beautiful blossoms from early spring through early autumn. You can do this in a garden bed or in a container.

“Fall is the perfect time to start a container garden. Spring-flowering bulbs such as narcissus, daffodils and anemones are easy to grow and especially suited to growing in containers.”

~ Dr. Jerry Parsons, Bexar County horticultural expert

It works well to choose bulbs that will grow to various heights. This will ensure that all of your flowers make their way to the surface successfully to provide you with a colorful and interesting display in the springtime.

Put a layer of good potting soil, potting mix or potting compost and add a sprinkling of bulb starter on top of this if you wish. Then place your first layer of bulbs. As you place your bulbs, think about their position relative to your plans for the next layer. You can place your bulbs fairly close together because the built-in nutrition in the flowering bulbs along with good potting soil/compost and bulb starter will provide ample nourishment.

Once you have one layer of bulbs in place, add about three inches of potting soil or compost, sprinkle with bulb starter and set up your next layer. Continue until you have reached the top of your pot.

When layering bulbs choose a selection of bulbs that bloom at varying times so that you can set up a “schedule” of blooming over a couple of months’ time. Be sure to choose bulbs that will grow to various heights. This will ensure that all of your flowers make their way to the surface successfully to provide you with a colorful and interesting display in the springtime.



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.



Southern Live Oak, the state tree of Texas, is a large growing and long-lived shade tree. When given enough room to grow, its 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.

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 are the right times to evaluate the placement and density of trees to create

needed shade. Trees and shrubs planted at 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.

Take advantage of CPS's Green Shade Rebate to save \$50 per shade tree for qualifying CPS customers. Look at the Tree Lot section of our web site www.milbergernursery.com for complete information and applications for rebate. You can also find a list of tree varieties that are available and ready to plant. Just ask one of the south Texas tree experts next time you visit the nursery.

NOVEMBER GARDENING TIPS

Planting, Pruning and Time to Fertilize

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 Wildseed seed mixes directly 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 detailed and complete Gardening Tips for this month visit www.MilbergerNursery.com.

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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Milberger's Halloween Blood Drive
Sat., Oct 27 10am 'til 1:30pm

Now that summer is over, and so are summer flowers, it's time to replace them with winter-hardy flowers for color. **Pansies** are the number one choice for blooming bedding plants. They're hardy, will bloom over a long season, and come in a wide array of colors. The old-fashioned face varieties have been steadily improved for better garden performance, and many new varieties with solid or bi-colors without a face are now available. You can get anything from bold orange, yellow and red, to pale pastels.

