

Editorial

In early December of 2003, a jewel of a garden shop "out in the country" in Cedar Hill began operating as Redenta's Garden. King's Creek Gardens was Rosa Finsley's creation and she was just ready to slow down her pace a little. With her mentoring and education during the transition and with the dedicated assistance and support of Vicki, Barney, Diane, Val, Santiago and Felecia, we are ready to help you with your gardening needs.

Yes, we are going to continue carrying the same great plants, yes, Barney will continue to propagate, yes, Vicki, the "Rose Queen" is still there and yes, we are going to continue to have various gardening experts speak at events throughout the year. And, of course, yes, we will continue to be an organic garden shop.

For those of you who know how special this place is, we are looking forward to seeing you again soon. For those of you who have never experienced this spot, we invite you to mark your calendars and sometime this spring take the time to join us for one of our speaking events, or just allow yourself some time in the gardens and sit and have your lunch at the grand picnic table listening to the sounds of the doves.

We are busy elsewhere as well, continuing to work in and add to the gardens in Arlington and Colleyville. We have been working with our growers (including Barney) to provide you with an even better selection of herbs, perennials, old garden roses and great trees and shrubs. And when you are ready to add some garden wares to your home and garden we think you will be pleasantly surprised with the items we are bringing in from our buying trips this January.

We look forward to seeing you soon...

Ruth Kinler
Owner/ President - Redenta's Inc.
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redenta's

www.redentas.com

Special Event

ROSE DAY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

813 Straus Road, Cedar Hill
972.291.7650

10:00 VICKI THAXTON

The "Rose Queen" will share
her list of favorite roses.

1:00 ROSA FINSLEY

Will demonstrate the proper
way to prune roses.

At our new
Cedar Hill
store.

Lone Star B.B.Q. will set up shop for lunch,
so plan to spend the day with us.

some favorite roses--old and new by Carol Durrant

Our preferences have long been the Old Garden Roses, defined as those roses in existence prior to 1867, but we have to admit that some of the newer ones are mimicking their hardiness, beauty and fragrance. Some of my favorites are:

Hermosa, a pre-1837 China with lavender pink fragrant double flowers, blooms throughout the season. There could not be a better plant for a container or a small garden.

Roulettii, prior to 1818, is a small China rose with lilac pink double flowers that repeat very well on a 1 to 3 foot plant. It looks like a 'mini' Old Blush and is as easy to grow. It is ideal for low borders and containers.

Belinda's Dream, a 1992 shrub rose, in its short life has become a Texas Superstar and one of the EarthKind roses. It has big pink fragrant double

(see roses on next page)

in your vegetable garden

by Christine Hensley

How fortunate we are here in north Texas – the New Year has barely started and we can already start planting in the vegetable garden. Consider trying some of these cool season crops. They will grow happily right now while it is chilly outside and they will be finished in time for you to put in those warm season tomatoes, peppers, beans and squash in early April. Onions, including 1015Y, red and white potatoes, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, green and red cabbage, cauliflower, collards, asparagus, mustard greens, Swiss chard, kale, lettuces and greens are already available in plants. From our Renee's Garden Seed collection, how could you pass up the "Romeo" carrot seeds, sweet flavored petite ball-shaped carrots with smooth skins that need no peeling, the "Jewel-Toned" beets that are a blend of burgundy, golden and candy-striped varieties or Renee's Pan Pacific Stir Fry Mix, a blend of 4 Asian greens, colorful and full of flavor?

We have thoroughly enjoyed this past winter frequent cuttings from the "Spicy Micro Greens" seeds from Botanical Interests. They have been great in salads, as a garnish on soups and in sandwiches. Give them a try – you know nothing compares to the flavor of really fresh produce.



Come visit our Cedar Hill store. If coming from Tarrant County, take Hwy. 1382 south from I-20 and go 5.3 miles and then south on Straus. If coming from the Dallas area, go south on Hwy. 67, exit 1382 and go west for almost a mile and turn south on Straus. We are about a half-mile on the right.

Mark your calendar...

ORGANIC DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 20
813 Straus Road, Cedar Hill
972.291.7650

11:00 HOWARD GARRETT
Broadcasts his radio show,
"The Natural Way" live.

1:00 Howard will show us how
to plant and maintain an organic
vegetable garden.

roses (continued from page 1)

flowers and is a great rebloomer. This 3 to 6 foot upright shrub is healthy and easy to grow.

Knockout is truly a knockout! This 2000 shrub EarthKind rose has day glow bright red to pink semi-double flowers with a nice fragrance and blooms throughout the year. It is a very easy-to-grow 3 to 4 foot upright shrub with lovely dark green foliage.

And though not technically an 'Old Garden Rose', one must see the specimen of Mutabilis (pre 1894) at our Dallas store. This China rose is a real showstopper. Its single blooms change from a pale yellow, to orange, pink to crimson, all these colors quite often on the bush at the same time. It reblooms all year except in extreme cold and heat. It is so easy to grow, will stay 4 to 6 feet if pruned, yet can get up to 12 feet if supported.

Note: February is the best time to plant roses and all four Redenta's will be receiving large shipments the first half of February.

fertilize now

February is the month for your first organic fertilization of the year. Use an organic fertilizer or corn gluten meal. Both will help build the organic matter in the soil and corn gluten meal, if applied within the next few weeks, will also discourage spring weed seed germination.

If you haven't the time or the inclination to do it yourself, Redenta's has an organic fertilization service that will come out five times during the season. Call the office if you would like a free estimate for your property.

perennial plant picks

by Vicki Thaxton

Phlox subulata

One of our favorites in the early spring is Phlox subulata. This is surely one of the plants that your Grandmother grew and is commonly known as "thrift". Two varieties that we feel are particularly nice are "Emerald Blue" and "Red Wings". Both have evergreen foliage and perform nicely in any soil type. Once the delicate flowers appear in early spring, you are so glad you added them to your collection of perennials. The flowers of "Emerald Blue" are truly sky blue and begin to appear when nothing else seems to even be thinking about blooming. "Red Wings" is deep pink; although the name implies red...it is really a deep pink. Both begin to bloom early when bulbs are just beginning to show color. Long lived, you will have these two favorites in your garden for many years to come.

Veronica Georgia Blue

This low growing sought after perennial is absolutely wonderful when used up front in a perennial border. You might choose to use only 3 or 4 as a collection, or perhaps use it as a border planting. Either way, you will love the way this outstanding plant performs, especially in our Texas heat. Foliage is compact, crinkled and dark. Blooms start to appear once the ground starts to warm up, with dark blue or violet 1 ½" to 2" flowers blooming in late spring into summer. This particular veronica is a bit late emerging in the early spring as it needs a bit of warm soil to get it going. We usually have limited numbers of this great perennial; however we currently have a source, so please stop by and check it out. We love this plant!

Hellebores orientalis

Sometimes called "Lenten Rose". If you've been looking for a perfect perennial for your shade garden—we have found it. This evergreen tropical looking gem usually has basal leaves with five to eleven sharply toothed leaflets. It blooms in late winter and continues into spring and always surprises gardeners that are not aware of its blooming cycle. Everything seems at rest in your garden and all of a sudden, there is this wonderful plant putting on color. Blooms are white, greenish, purplish, or rose, often spotted or splashed with deep purple. Once flowers are spent, do not dead head, as those flowers contain many seeds which will self-sow, giving you a nice colony of evergreen foliage. When you least expect anything in your garden to perform...there it is...doing its thing. Wonderful and hard to find, we love this plant!

Acanthus mollis

Sometimes called Bear's Breech, this is another special perennial that we love to stock but have a hard time finding. Native to south Europe, this plant loves our Texas soils and performs beautifully in our Texas climate. All that you need to remember is to prepare the soil well with lots of compost and make sure it gets a bit of moisture. It will grow in deep shade and will tolerate a bit of morning sun, as long as you make sure it gets an extra drink during hot dry times. Dramatic foliage with large green leaves, you will love it just for that. Once the blooms begin to appear, on large upright stalks, you will be thrilled. Flowers are difficult to describe, as they are petals of purple and white appearing on this large 1 to 2 foot spike of flowers. Even if it never bloomed...you would just love the way it looks in your shade garden.

Sabal Minor

Sometimes called Dwarf Palmetto, this shrubby palm is native to the forest under story, scrublands and alluvial flood plains of the Southeast. Slow growing to 6 feet tall. Usually trunk less; older specimens have a short, thick trunk. Old leaves fold at base, hands down like closed umbrellas. Tolerates wet or dry soils and about any type of soils. One of the hardiest palms. This is an evergreen specimen we should all include in our gardens, as it gives the appearance of a tropical look without all the work. One of those perennials that is ever so hard to find but we currently have in stock.



Join the Dirt Doctor's Ground Crew and receive 12 issues of the Dirt Doctor's Dirt as well as a membership card that can be used for discounts at organic retailers including a 10% discount on all purchases of in-store organic products at any Redenta's Garden. Sign up on www.dirtdoctor.com or call 866.444.DIRT toll free.

getting ready for spring...

... Cut back any grasses and perennials left untrimmed through the winter.

... Trim spring blooming roses or shrubs such as Lady Banks, Fortune's Double Yellow, quince, forsythia, azaleas, Carolina jessamine after they bloom.

... Plant, plant, plant! Any and all hardy perennials, roses, herbs, trees and shrubs. Plant properly - we have free handouts in the stores to help you get started.

... Plant Cool season annuals such as geraniums, ranunculus, primrose, cyclamen, alyssum, nasturtiums, sweet peas and poppies.

...If there is unusually cold weather as your early spring garden starts growing, remember you will get as much as 8 degrees protection with the use of floating row cover over your plants.

... The International Herb Association has named Garlic the Herb of the Year for 2004...now is the time to plant! We have a great selection.



Notes from Ruth is published seasonally by Ruth, Michael and Dick Kinler. We welcome any comments or suggestions.



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Hours: Monday through Saturday 9-6 Sunday 10-5

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www.redentas.com

We will be using email to keep our gardeners posted on the latest news and events at Redenta's. Our "e-update" will go out about once a month and will contain news about Redenta's as well as give seasonal tips for your garden. The e-update will also contain occasional specials or discounts only available to e-update recipients.

We respect your privacy and will not send you e-updates unless you request them. If you would like to sign up, just send us an email or better yet, come into the store and we will give you a 10% discount on your purchase that day if you sign up for the e-update.

e-update

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