

Editorial

I know that one of the main reasons most of you visit our stores is our selection of plant material. My people tell me that you are always on the hunt for plants you can't find anywhere else. Last summer I asked Barney, our head of propagation, to help me identify about 50 plants that could be unique to Redenta's. These plants had to be ones that our gardeners would be excited about including in their landscape.

Barney started growing the *Redenta's 50* last fall and the first ones should be ready in a few weeks. The supply will be limited and once they are gone, there will be no more until next year. Whenever we put any of the *Redenta's 50* out for sale, we will announce it on the web site, www.redentas.com. You will be able to easily locate these plants because they will have a distinctive orange background on the sign. So check the web site often. As far as I know, we will be the only ones carrying the great majority of these plants this year.

I have also been trying for the last 10 years to find the time to put together a Redenta's gardening calendar. Toward the end of 2004 I asked all of my people to help me put together a gardening calendar for the New Year. They came up with some wonderful suggestions that we have divided into four categories: *Plant* – best planting dates for everything we carry; *Maintain* – best times to perform maintenance on the plants and the garden; *Tip* – helpful hints and suggestions; *Project* – Suggested projects you might want to tackle. You will find these full-color calendars on the web at www.redentas.com for you to consult or print out. We have completed the calendars through April and the next few months will be posted by the end of February.

And as you are sitting by the fire leisurely looking through seed catalogs and magazines, we are busy at the stores feverishly preparing them for your next visit. The gardens are being taken care of; we are receiving lots of new products and hardy plant material is arriving weekly. Hope to see you soon . . .



redenta's

www.redentas.com

Special Event

ROSE DAY with Vicki Thaxton

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

813 Straus Road, Cedar Hill
972.291.7650

10:30 **Old Garden Roses**

1:00 **Heirloom Plants--
The scented garden**

At our
Cedar Hill
store.

Our "Rose Queen" Vicki Thaxton has put together the annual Rose Day at our Cedar Hill store. Cedar Hill gardeners know that this is one of the premier events at the store during the year and everyone is welcome. We will have just received our biggest shipment of roses for the year and the selection will never be better.

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.

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

This may be your last Newsletter

It's been several years since we cleaned up our mailing list. If you want to keep receiving it, all we ask is that we hear from you. See details on the back page.

SATURDAY MORNING IN THE GARDEN

Come and join us Saturday mornings at 10:30 at each of our stores for an informal gardener get together. I've asked members of my staff to share with you their knowledge of some aspect of gardening for which they have a particular enthusiasm and expertise. These are not formal lectures but rather will be a gathering of fellow gardeners in an area of the store for a "show and tell" that will serve as a quick fix of gardening before you start your weekend projects. At our Cedar Hill store there are the occasional all-day events that will involve more than one talk and you can check the schedule for those. To get more details on each of the events, go to the website, www.redentas.com.

See you there!

February 19th

Arlington

Starting Plants with Seeds – Evan Salituro

Colleyville

Tough Roses for a Texas Garden – Suzie Agnew

Dallas

Easy to Grow Roses – Carol Durrant

Cedar Hill

ROSE DAY

(see front page)

February 26th

Arlington

Old Garden Roses – Vicki Thaxton

Colleyville

Organic Vegetable Gardening – Dee McKnight

Dallas

Color in the Shade Garden – Christine Hensley

Cedar Hill

Care of Fruit Trees – Diana Loring

March 5th

Arlington

Getting Started the Organic Way – Ruth Kinler

Colleyville

Gardening with Evergreen Perennials – Nancy Searl

Dallas

Springtime Birds, Nesting and Migration – Carolyn Oldham

Cedar Hill

Creating Container Gardens – Brandi Ellis

March 12th

Arlington

Designing a Perennial Garden – D. J. Schoneweis

Colleyville

Creating Container Gardens – Brandi Ellis

Dallas

Herbs in the Rose Garden – Carol Durrant

Cedar Hill

ORGANIC GARDENING DAY WITH HOWARD GARRETT
Broadcast at 11:00. Talk at 1:00.

March 19th

Arlington

Springtime Birds – Linda Ledbetter

Colleyville

A Texas Japanese Garden – Dee McKnight

Dallas

Creating Container Gardens – Brandi Ellis

Cedar Hill

Herbs in the Garden – Ruth Kinler

April 2nd

Arlington

Creating Container Gardens – Brandi Ellis

Colleyville

Getting Started the Organic Way – Ruth Kinler

Dallas

Container Water Features – Michael Kinler

Cedar Hill

Organic Vegetable Gardening in Texas – Diana Loring

April 9th

Arlington

Tough Texas Natives – Karri McGovern

Colleyville

Creating a Butterfly Garden – Brandi Ellis

Dallas

Getting Started the Organic Way – Ruth Kinler

Cedar Hill

Gardening with Butterflies – Felecia Hays

April 16th

Arlington

Herbs in the Garden – Ruth Kinler

Colleyville

Plants for Arbors and Fences – Nancy Searl

Dallas

Creating a Butterfly Garden – Carolyn Oldham

Cedar Hill

PERENNIAL DAY

10:30 – A Treasury of Perennials and Native Plants

I've Come to Love – Rosa Finsley

1:00 – Great Things Come in Small Packages – Vicki Thaxton

April 23rd

Arlington

Creating a Butterfly Garden – D. J. Schoneweis

Colleyville

Herbs in the Garden – Ruth Kinler

Dallas

Creature Features in the Garden for Kids – Brandi Ellis

Cedar Hill

Covering Arbors and Fences – Vicki Thaxton

Go to www.redentas.com to get more information on each event and to see the rest of the schedule.

Meet the flockers . . .

Birding event at the Colleyville Nature Center

Saturday, February 26

Learn your local birds by sight and sound at the Colleyville Nature Center on Saturday, Feb 26.

Audubon members Carolyn and David Oldham will lead a

leisurely 2-hour walk through the woods

identifying the birds seen and heard.

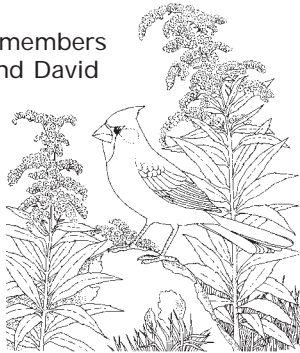
Beginners are welcome. Bring good binoculars and comfortable shoes.

Meet at Redenta's Colleyville store at 8:15 am. We will caravan over to the park. Space is limited so reserve your spot by calling the office at metro 817.469.6786. A recent visit to the park produced 28 species--we can surely top that!

Want to attract more diverse types of birds to the garden? Nuts really fit the bill (pardon the pun!). Raw Spanish peanuts unsalted and unroasted, both in the shell and out, appeal to many native birds such as red-bellied and downy woodpeckers, blue jays, chickadees, titmice, Carolina wrens, house finches and even cardinals. Peanuts provide protein which gives birds energy for their daily tasks. Our stores offer special peanut feeders from Droll Yankee which carry a lifetime warranty. So put out the peanuts and watch the birds go "nutty"!

If you are looking for a lightweight, snug-fitting garden glove

to protect your hands FOXGLOVES will be perfect for you. They are made of SUPPLEX nylon for durability and LYCRA spandex for four-way stretch. Brandi loves to use them when potting containers and to keep her hands warm during the winter. Machine washable and quick drying.



Q & A

The questions YOU have been asking . . .

Is it too early to plant?

Absolutely not! All container plants that can survive our winter weather can be planted now. This is the perfect time to plant a fruit tree. Granny Smith and Gala apples do grow well here. Perhaps you would prefer a fig or an Asian pear. They will all reward you with great fruit. And if you want blackberry leaves to add to your tea, add a bush to your garden.

When can I use corn gluten meal?

The best time to apply it is usually from February 15th to March 15th. Water it in well and do your best to withhold water for about two weeks. We sell *spreadable* corn gluten meal. It provides great coverage and is not too powdery.

When do I cut back my ornamental grasses?

I usually suggest doing so in mid February before the new season's growth starts. Cut back to no more than 6 inches above ground level. If you have a large clump, you may need to use hedge shears or loppers. This applies to deciduous grasses; evergreen grasses need no cutting back. Purple fountain grass is an annual here, so I would not expect it to survive the winter.

How do I take care of my "dead" perennials?

Again, about mid February, cut the dead stalks back close to the ground. In many instances you will already see new growth at ground level, so you can confidently cut off all of the brown material. Sometimes you can wait with woody perennials such as flame acanthus and see how far back the plant has died during the winter, though it will come back with flying colors if cut back to the ground.

How do I prevent my Salvia Greggii from becoming too woody and gangly looking?

Lightly trimming throughout the growing season helps, though we also have found that by cutting it back by as much as 1/2 in February really helps it to stay bushier and more compact.

Mark your calendar...

ORGANIC DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
813 Straus Road, Cedar Hill
972.291.7650

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

1:00 Join Howard for a lively
discussion on organic gardening.
Bring your questions.

The Perennial Plant of the Year for 2005 is *Helleborus x. hybridus*, commonly known as Lenten Rose.

If you have spent any time with Vicki at our Cedar Hill location, you already know how much she loves this plant. With its new-found popularity, you may read that it will do well in full sun. It will not here; plant it in your shade garden and enjoy its blooms from late winter to spring. Blooms range from white, green, pink and purple. Do not dead head, as spent blooms contain many seeds that will self-sow. Foliage is evergreen and almost tropical looking. A real winner, even here in north Texas!

You must sign up to get the rest of the 2005 Newsletters (see back page).

Don't forget, **if you need one of our designers to visit** and help you plan your garden, we do have one-hour design consultations available. Our designers can spend some time making suggestions and recommendations. They can also render a drawing and/or supervise the installation of your project.

It's time to fertilize. See the coupon on the back page OR have our landscape department come out and measure your yard for Redenta's 5-times-per-year organic fertilization service starting in the last half of this month. Ask for our handout explaining the service next time you are in the store or print it out from the web site, www.redentas.com.

Do you want to continue getting this Newsletter?

Every few years we "clean up" the mailing list to eliminate those who no longer wish to receive the Newsletter. If you want to continue to receive this Newsletter with its great articles and special promotions, we want to continue to mail it to you. Just take **one** of the steps listed below to let us know you want to continue. (Also, give us your e-mail address if you want to receive periodic "e-updates" featuring announcements and specials).

1. Go to the web site, www.redentas.com, and click on Newsletter on the home page and fill out the form.
2. Send an email to newsletter@redentas.com with your name and address. If you don't want periodic e-updates, just say so.
3. Fill out a card next time you are in the store.
4. Call 817.461.0030 or 817.469.6786 (both toll-free in the metroplex) and leave your name, address (if it's changed), and email address (if you want to receive e-updates). Speak slowly and distinctly, please.

If you have signed up since January 1st, you don't have to sign up again.



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



Printed on recycled paper

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

| Arlington | Colleyville | Dallas | Cedar Hill |
|---|--|---|--|
| 5111 West Arkansas Lane Arlington, Texas 76016 817.451.2149 fax 817.451.2199 | 6230 Colleyville Blvd. Colleyville, Texas 76034 817.488.3525 fax 817.488.7357 | 2001 Skillman Street Dallas, Texas 75206 214.823.9421 fax 214.828.2955 | 813 Straus Road Cedar Hill, Texas 75104 972.291.7650 fax 972.293.9673 |

COUPON SALE

For each bag of Redenta's Organic Fertilizer you buy at regular price (17.99), you can buy one for \$10.

Bags must be rung up at same time. One time use. No facsimiles. Must be surrendered at time of purchase. No prior sales. Expires Feb. 28th.

Log on to
www.redentas.com
for
Gardening Calendars
Saturday Morning in
the Garden
Redenta's 50

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