

Editorial

Any of you that know me are aware that fall is my favorite season of the year – cooler weather, lots of blue skies, welcoming rains and very little wind. Gardening for me is very limited in the spring time, since I am quite preoccupied with our business. All summer long, the garden is a place to retreat to, but the actual gardening consists mostly of watering container plants and making sure that the sprinkler system does its job properly. When that very first “cool” spell of September arrives and the temperatures stay in the low 80’s for more than a day, I am ready to actively garden again.

This schedule is actually a blessing in disguise, since the fall is by far the best time to plant here in North Texas. Most of the root growth of trees, shrubs and hardy perennials takes place in the cooler weather of late summer and fall. So I know my plants will have a better chance of success next spring and summer, when I am preoccupied with other matters. And planting indeed will need to be done, since I am still learning about our yard. There are a few spots in the front yard that are a real challenge. They are completely shaded until about 4 PM and then all of a sudden the hot afternoon sun beats down on them. So I continue to experiment – what plants love sun and shade – I will keep you posted. I love the Adagio miscanthus in the back yard, but just am not impressed with the Karl Forester feather reed grass. I am going to replace these. And in the little herb/vegetable garden, I have already planted some fall tomatoes and this week will plant broccoli (purple Rosalind and southern comet), cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi and some salad greens. This second season of vegetable gardening here is such a luxury.

I will never forget how amazed my Mum was on a Christmas day in the early ‘80’s to be eating broccoli fresh cut from my garden – that was out of the realm of possibility in the Bruce Peninsula of Ontario!

Ruth Kinler
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FALL BULBS



Coming Soon!

We will have selected varieties of bulbs that will do well here in North Texas.

Consider the little species tulips and small multiflowering narcissi that naturalize so well here. We will also be receiving some *Crocus sativus* (commonly known as Saffron), some hardy cyclamen as well as a good number of native *Lycoris radiata* (red spider lilies).

Coupon

25% off total purchase
of plants

(perennials, herbs, roses)

One time use. Items must be rung up at same time. No facsimiles. Must be surrendered at time of purchase.
Expires September 21st.

putting your fall garden together

by Christine Hensley

Here in Texas we usually have the luxury of a long, mild fall growing season. It becomes cool enough for us to sit outside again and enjoy a respite after the crushing heat of summer has broken. There are plenty of perennials that will put on a great display in the fall garden:

1. Plants that are just now coming into their blooming season: The pink and purple asters; red to pink sedum 'Autumn joy' and 'Matrona'; white and blue Joe Pye weed, (Eupatorium), blue Caryopteris, rich yellow goldenrod (Solidago) and Mexican mint marigold (Tagetes lucida), and white to pink rainlilies (Zephranthes).

2. Plants that have been just green and resting through the summer will find renewed vigor with the cooler weather and rebloom: Roses, pink or white obedient plant (Physostegia), purple or white coneflower (Echinacea), dianthus and Texas bluebells (Lisianthus). While these plants are usually sold as annuals, they are actually short-lived perennials that can survive for more than one season in your garden.

3. Plants that have been blooming since midsummer and won't stop until late fall. Many of the salvias, golden yellow rudbeckia, white to pink gaura, red and white Turk's cap (Malvaviscus), and pink to purple Mexican oregano (Poliomenantha).

This is by no means a complete list; there are many other great specimens that will add beautiful fall color, form and texture to your outdoor space. I hope I have inspired you to include a few of them in your garden.

profile

I am very proud of the three people that manage our stores. Christine Hensley had come to work for us in the Dallas store last July and by December she was managing the store. A native of south Texas, Christine graduated from Texas A & M with a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture. She then proceeded to spend a number of years in the tech industry until she finally saw the light.

Her knowledge and love of plants is contagious – that's why we and her gardeners love to take time with her and talk about our gardens. Her Botanical Garden Specialization at A & M was geared towards natives and when it was time for the Vegetable Production class, she chose the organic class taught by Joe Novac.

Christine finds this position to be both refreshing and rewarding. Before it was a matter of listening to people complain about their computer systems. Now she gets to spend time listening to happy people who love to talk about plants.



winter color . . . beyond pansies

by Christine Hensley

Let's face it, we all love pansies. Big blooms, a large variety of color, and good cold tolerance make them a favorite in the winter garden. But what do you plant when you're "pansied-out?"

Sweet peas, alyssum, snapdragons, poppies, ornamental cabbage and kale.

Evergreen herbs - parsley, arugula and calendula.

Vegetables - edible kale, lettuce and Swiss chard are all winter hardy and can be very striking in the garden.

Consider planting from seed - they are simple, inexpensive and you'll get a better selection.

Have fun adding color to your winter landscape!

We have just received a shipment of the hard-to-find Shantung maple tree.

Note: The stores will close at 5:00 on September 20th so our people can attend our annual picnic.

free design consultations this month

Want to get an expert opinion on some of your gardening ideas? The next 3 months are the absolute best time to plant and we are making our design consultants available at each of the stores for one day this month. Come to the Colleyville or Dallas stores on Saturday, September 13th, or to the Arlington store on Saturday, September 20th. We will have two consultants assigned to each store and will have a sign-up sheet on a first-come-first-served basis.

In order to accommodate as many gardeners as possible, we will have to limit the sessions to 20 minutes so here are some hints to get you organized: Bring all of the information you have about the area you need help with. Bring measurements of the area, a sketch you can make notes on with any existing plants indicated, photos if available, and an estimate of hours of sunshine the area receives.

And, you can use the coupon on page one to save on your plant purchase.

Free Design Consultations Schedule

Colleyville – September 13 – 9:00-4:40

Dallas – September 13 – 9:00-4:40

Arlington – September 20 – 9:00-4:40

good weeds/bad weeds

by Carol Durrant

The basic definition of a weed is: a plant growing where it is not wanted. Of course there are bad weeds which we do not want anywhere near us such as poison ivy and crabgrass. We can recommend organic methods to get those bad ones out of your yard, but won't you consider the many weeds which are actually useful – in the right location? Bermuda grass is a horrible 'bad' weed in my vegetable garden but is a fine drought tolerant lawn grass.

The plants which are invasive marauders in some parts of the country are attractive, more easily controlled ground covers in our area. Try creeping Charlie, violets, moneywort or one of the several varieties of ajuga for shady areas. Loosestrife, goldenrod, sunflowers and oxeye daisies are pests to some, but to others, they make great cottage garden flowers. And as a bonus, they attract birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects. So do tansy, yarrow, milkweed, butter and eggs and clover (which also adds nitrogen to the soil).

Some of the interesting old-time edible herbs such as burdock, dandelion, chicory, sorrel, mugwort, soapwort, heal-all and speedwell can add texture, flowers and foliage colors to wildflower and herb gardens although considered weeds in other spaces. Mints and oregano can be invasive unless confined to pots or a defined area where they can make pleasantly scented groundcovers as well as providing flavoring for food and drink. Fascinatingly ancient horsetail reed can add its prehistoric look to ponds and bog gardens – again, confined, of course. Young trees from seeds or from an older tree's roots can be a real problem – even maples, oaks and pecans if they come up where you don't want them. Or – they could provide you with a new tree.

Lots of 'good' weeds are available at our store. Let us help you use them to your advantage. Remember, even a beautiful climbing rose (gasp!) can be a weed if it isn't trained!

P.S. from Ruth

I was reading a little paperback called *How to get your Lawn & Garden off drugs* by Canadian writer Carole Rubin. She had an interesting little story about a friend of hers from Ottawa "who house-swapped with a family in rural France for a year in the early 1980's. While there she diligently dug all the dandelions out of their yard, roots and all. Once back the French family phoned her friend. They were furious. She had destroyed heirloom plants, passed on for seven generations, used for wine and salad greens. A lawsuit was threatened. Gives us a different perspective, *n'est-ce pas?*"

We need your email address

Redenta's is now sending short email newsletters or "e-updates" about once a month. Each issue includes a note from Ruth, helpful hints for the season, and information about what's new in the stores plus the occasional special offer or discount available only to e-update subscribers. To subscribe, send an email to office@redentas.com with the message "add to list."

We will use the email address on your message unless you tell us otherwise. Include your first and last name so we can keep your email address with your newsletter mailing address. Include email addresses of friends you would like to receive the e-update.

Visit the Web Site

Be sure to check out www.redentas.com on a regular basis this season. It will keep you updated on product arrivals, plant of the week, and much, much more.

Have you been enjoying the hummingbirds lately? Remember to refill your feeders every 3 or 4 days. If you do not have a flame acanthus (a hardy perennial) or a cigar plant (cuphea ignea--usually an annual here) in your yard, you are missing out on two of the best hummingbird attractant plants there are (and two of the easiest plants to grow here in the full sun).



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



Printed on recycled paper

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