

Editorial

What a summer – the wettest summer on record, and the days of extreme heat have been almost non-existent. Some of the plants that are used to thriving in our normally hot, dry summers are struggling. We have seen black foot daisies and lavenders dying from too much water and desert willows not putting on their usual dramatic show of flowers. Obviously we are having another adventure in gardening in Texas. Patience is advised – and how can we possibly complain when our reservoirs are filled to capacity.

Having lived here in north Texas since 1979, I know this over abundance of water is an aberration, so let us not waste this water. Resist the temptation to set your sprinkler system for automatic watering. If you have had 1 to 2 inches of rain in a week, you do not need any more. A rain shut-off device is essential. How many times this summer did you see a yard being watered when it was pouring rain? What a waste of precious resources.

What has been encouraging has been the number of plants that have survived so well, adapting to both too much and too little rain. One of the reasons is that we have taken the time and energy to build up our heavy clay soils with lots of organic matter. These soils drain so much better, so we not only have healthier plants in general, we have plants that can take extremes in moisture – just another advantage to gardening organically. And now we are approaching what I believe is the best season of the year for gardening. The hummingbirds battle with each other and monarch butterflies float around, all in search of food in preparation for their long journey south. The temperatures are cooler, especially in the morning (my favorite time of the day). The winds are calm compared to the constant gusts of the spring. If you do have weeds, the moist soils make them so much easier to pull. It is a great time of year to add organic matter to your soil and to plant trees, shrubs and hardy perennials, including most herbs. All of your efforts now will reward you with much healthier plants next summer, no matter what the weather might be.



redenta's

www.redentas.com

Special
Event

A SEASONAL GATHERING

Saturday
September 18

813 Straus Road, Cedar Hill
972.291.7650

At our new
Cedar Hill
store.

10:00 **CAROLYN OLDHAM**
Planting for the birds

1:00 **VICKI THAXTON**
Fall favorites and planting for the spring

On Saturday, September 18th, we would like to invite you to visit our Cedar Hill location and plan to stay the day with us. We have two great speakers: one who is always looking up and the other who somehow is always looking down.

At 10:00 please join Carolyn Oldham whose love of bird watching is evident in her day-to-day life as a landscape designer for Redenta's landscape division. Carolyn and her husband David have had a passion for bird watching for over 20 years. Living in Allen, Texas they have spotted over 120 species of birds in their garden over the last 6 years. They plan their vacations each year around bird watching, visiting the entire state of Texas, Arizona, and also Costa Rica in an effort to enjoy this remarkable hobby. Did you know that "Birding" is the second most popular hobby in the nation, with the first being gardening?

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Stop and smell the roses

Fall Event

(continued from front page)

Let Carolyn and David share their love of gardening and how it can bring these beautiful creatures into your garden. Learn how to plant species that the birds love and learn about proper seed and feeders to create your own wonderful backyard habitat.

At 1:00 join our plant-a-holic Vicki Thaxton . Vicki thinks about gardening 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Vicki is our plant expert at the Cedar Hill store and we all rely on her extensive plant knowledge. Her enthusiasm for gardening is contagious and she cultivates all the plants we offer at Redenta's and would love to share some of her favorites with you. Bring your pad and pen and take notes on what's good to plant for fall and what to look for in the spring.

For those of you who want to make a day of it, Long Horn Barbeque will have barbeque sandwiches for sale.

Directions

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.

It's time to plant . . .

Wildflowers – come by and pick up our Wildflower Planting Guide.

Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and collards – if our weather cooperates you could be harvesting them on Christmas day.

Cilantro – it much prefers the cooler autumn weather.

Salad greens and spinach – snip 1 inch above the soil when greens are about 4 to 6 inches long. In another 3 weeks or so, you will have another crop to harvest.

Mustard greens and Asian greens – good not only in salads but also stir fries.

Sweetspire and Burning Bush - their fall foliage is spectacular.

Pansies – wait until mid October.

by Carol Durrant

What a strange summer! More rain and coolness than usual have encouraged splendid rebloom among the roses that often go almost dormant. These roses keep inviting us out for an exploration of unexpected flowers and their delightful scents.

Along with the classic old rose perfumes (Autumn Damask, Paul Neyron, Louise Odier, Gruss an Teplitz, Mrs. B.R. Cant, Conrad Ferdinand Meyer) we've been ooh-ing and ah-ing over the citrus or fruity fragrances of Chrysler Imperial, Cramoisi Superieur, Archduke Charles, Golden Celebration and Abraham Darby. And the cool fresh teas scent of La France, Sombreuil, Lady Hillingdon and Monsieur Tiller is matched by that of the English roses Graham Thomas, Pegasus and Molineux.

More attractive to some noses than others, the "English rose fragrance, based on the myrrh note introduced with Constance Spry" by David Austin was until recently unfamiliar as a rose scent (to me). Now, however, I find "it's growing on me," as I sniff Ambridge Rose, Charity, Mary Rose and Heritage in search of the hints of honey, almond and old roses described in the catalogs. My most recent discoveries in fragrance this summer include Independence Musk, Granada, Texas Centennial, Noble Antony, Portland from Glendora and Lovers Delight.

The perfume of many roses is stronger at different times of day, some when they first open, others as the flower ages. The very fragrant Maggie shares a "secret extra scent" with Mutabilis and Bermuda's Kathleen: gently rub just behind the petals for a sweet peppery perfume on your fingers. We invite you to take a walk through the roses next time you stop by and explore the fragrances!

25% off roses during September

There could not be a better time of year to plant a rose and our selection is great. And what one store does not have, another may. We will be happy to transfer items from one store to another to help you get what you want. And don't forget - roses thrive in beds prepared with lots of organic matter.

And yes, you can combine your Fall Coupons with your rose purchase even though they are already 25% off.

Rose tips on rose hips from Ruth

If you have roses that sport lovely rose hips, do not deadhead your last crop of blooms. You will not only have rose hips to use for teas and preserves, those left on your bushes will provide food for such birds as the cedar waxwing and mockingbird.

And did you know that rose hips are a superb source of vitamin C? My mother was talking to me not long ago about some of her experiences in England during World War II. At that time, citrus products were not readily available, so lots of volunteers went out to pick rose hips from the hedgerows. The hips were then given to the Ministry of Health who in turn made rose hip syrup that was provided free to all the children of England. She remembers in particular an Alexander or Alexandra rose – a flat rose that grew wild in the country side. Some of the roses that we grow here that will produce great hips are Ballerina, Iceberg, Mutabilis, Old Blush and Seven Sisters.

Barney's beauties

by Vicki Thaxton

Those of you familiar with the Cedar Hill location may already be aware of some of the unique plants that Barney has propagated over the years. Most can only be found at Redenta's. For the first time, we have been able to get some of them to our other stores. They are available in very limited numbers and we promise to have more of them available next season. Here are some of them:

Dianthus japonicus – a reseeding annual, sometimes a tender perennial. Glossy apple-green leaves with small lavender blooms in late summer. Just when you think everything is finished in your garden, you will be delighted with this bloom.

Sade's Garden Scarlet – a seedling from another great salvia known as Big Red. It has a larger florescent red bloom and will grow to over 3 feet. This variety prefers a hair cut from time to time to keep it looking its best. Hummingbirds love it. Full to part sun.

Salvia greggii Morgan's Pink – hummers love it! This plant has a more vertical growth habit than most salvia greggii and is ideal for a smaller garden. Grows 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide. Full sun. Drought tolerant.

Salvia madrensis – beautiful butter-yellow blossoms in the fall. To watch this plant push up its square stems and heart-shaped leaves from underground rhizomes is to see a marvel in slow motion. Provides beautiful texture in your garden. Mulch well the first couple of years to get it established. Sun to light shade. Grows 3 to 4 feet tall. Great cut flower.

Snake Herb – a great Texas native groundcover. It is extremely drought tolerant and blooms all summer with purple tuber flowers. Goes dormant in winter but returns year after year. Grows 6 to 8 inches tall. Sun to part sun.

Zephyranthes sp. Labuffarosa – a rainlily. Large white flowers tinted with rose. Blooms July through August. Grows in bright shade and will naturalize if left to go to seed. About 6 to 8 inches tall.

Thornless Pyracantha – a definite show stopper. Easy to grow and quite unique. Solid orange berries that birds will love. Can reach 6 to 7 feet tall and wide. Looks great espaliered on a wall.

Korean Pittosporum – talk about a wonderful evergreen large shrub for your landscape. Totally winter hardy – expect this specimen to get 6 feet tall and 4 to 5 feet wide. Its small narrow leaves form a dense shrub and will be covered with small, extremely fragrant flowers in early spring. Morning sun, afternoon shade.

Chinese Pittosporum – this variety resembles the shrub you are perhaps more familiar with. It is much more tolerant of our colder weather. Reaches 6 to 7 feet tall and 4 to 6 feet wide. Flowers appear about 2 weeks later, so if fragrance is important, plant both varieties and you will have weeks of pleasure. Morning sun, afternoon shade.

It's time to fertilize - Apply the fall application before the end of October. Use Redenta's organic fertilizer or corn gluten meal (before October 15) to aid in weed control.

New Teresa salvia

We are excited as we are able to offer to you a brand new plant to north Texas – *Salvia greggii* 'Teresa'. Discovered in Hunt County in 2001 as a single branch coming off of a red salvia greggii, cuttings were taken. They were planted back on the original property as well as in north central Texas. They all stayed true to color – a unique white with a pink stripe. With a patent pending, we are currently the only source of this plant in this area.

As with all salvia greggii, Teresa loves full sun and soils that tend to the dry side. Hummingbirds and butterflies love it. Average size is 3 x 3. Check our website www.redentas.com to see a picture of this rare beauty.

Our regular retail price on this new discovery is 9.95, but during September the price will be 7.95. Combine with your Fall Coupon for additional savings.

Hori-Hori digging tool

Are you transplanting or dividing perennials? Are you trying to plant a plant that is root bound in the pot? Try the Hori - Hori Digging Tool.

It is an indispensable tool for digging in the garden. It not only penetrates our stubborn solid clay soil and pries out the toughest of weeds; its serrated edge is great for cutting the roots of pot-bound plants before planting them. No wonder we like it so much.

75% off tree lot

When we took over the Cedar Hill store we inherited a much bigger inventory of larger trees than we carry at the other stores. We would like to develop the tree lot for other purposes so we need your help to move them out.

Everything on the Cedar Hill tree lot will be sold at 75% off of the marked price. So bring your truck or trailer and come early for best selection. (Fall Coupons cannot be used for purchases of items already marked down 75%).

Consult a consultant

One day only - Saturday, September 18

Redenta's Design Consultants normally spend their time visiting with gardeners at their homes to answer questions and offer landscape advice. They have years of experience with landscape design and installation. On Saturday, September 18, we are going to station one at each of our stores. They will be available, on a first come, first served basis, at no charge, to advise you on plant selection and landscape design tips for your garden. Bring a rough sketch or photos if you like and feel free to "pick their brains."

Time: Noon to 4:00.

Place: All four stores.

Limit: 15 minutes per consultation to give everyone a chance.



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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Items must be rung up at same time. One time use. No facsimiles. Must be surrendered at time of purchase. Restricted to inventory on hand. No transfers, no holds, no special orders, no prior sales, no landscape services. Expires Sept. 30th. Cannot be used with items marked at 75% off.

<p>\$10 OFF A PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE</p>
<p>\$25 OFF A PURCHASE OF \$100 OR MORE</p>
<p>\$75 OFF A PURCHASE OF \$250 OR MORE</p>

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