

Editorial



Over the past few years, as I got busier and busier working in our business, I found that I had less and less time to do the gardening that I had so much loved. I have begun to spend more time in my garden lately and am realizing what I have missed.

The events of September 11

brought many of you to our gardens seeking solace that day. And just like that awful day, there have been many of you who have visited our stores over the years for that same peace and tranquility to soothe other tragedies. I know of many memorial gardens planted that have helped many of you heal from the death of a loved one.

Hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, prisons and retirement homes have begun to encourage gardening as therapy for their residents. Parents, students and teachers have joined to build many gardens at their schools. I know of some volunteers who have spent many, many hours and dollars of their own to work with students at Title 1 schools establishing gardens for children that previously had no idea where a tomato came from. The REAL people project established by the Rainwater Charitable Foundation is also working with many members of the community to establish outdoor learning environments at similar elementary schools.

Gardening is wonderful. It enhances the beauty of our homes; it creates environments that help us commune with nature. It is good exercise for the body and the mind and it is a teacher for the young and the old. It soothes our soul and enriches our life. I am remembering again why I had gardened in the first place and am thoroughly enjoying it!

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redenta's

Vicki's fall perennial picks

by Vicki Thaxton

We have been producing a collection of wonderful perennial plants that we offer throughout the season. As we enter the fall season, some additional plants are becoming available that you might want to take a look at. Here is a brief listing of some of our *Redenta's 50's* we currently have available:

Heliotrope 'Azure Skies': A heat-loving perennial that will dazzle the butterflies. This low-growing ground cover acts like a verbena, and requires so little assistance; you will be thrilled with its performance. Sky blue flowers adorn the small leaves that spread 12 to 14 inches across, and approximately 3 to 4 inches high. Easy to grow and does not require excessive amounts of water.

Yellow Patrinia: One of those perennials that sort of "does its own thing" all summer long, forming a nice rosette of green healthy leaves over the growing season. Once fall arrives it produces several stalks that are 2 to 3 feet tall, with tiny yellow flowers resembling yellow baby's breath flowers. Excellent used in cut flower arrangements, you will love the way this perennial looks in your garden.

San Luis Salvia: We obtained this wonderful salvia from a gardening friend that had it in his garden for several years. Cherry red flowers are produced in mid summer into fall. Very drought tolerant and easy to grow. The hummers will love it. 3 feet tall and wide.

Silkes Dream: If you love coral colored flowers you will want this perennial in your border. Similar to a salvia greggi in appearance, the leaves are more rounded and the bush grows to 3 feet tall and wide. The color is yummy and blends nicely with other warm colors in your garden. This salvia really takes off once the night temperatures begin to drop. Expect a display of color from mid summer into fall.

Salvia Mexicana 'Limelight': Talk about a showstopper...this is one to definitely plan on including in your garden. Large broad leaves appear in early spring and form a rosette of material which begins to push up

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SATURDAY MORNING IN THE GARDEN



Saturday Morning in the Garden returns with a fall schedule. 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. The schedule is also on redentas.com.

September 24th

Annual Plant Sale All four stores

See back page for coupon.

October 1st

Arlington

Fall Perennials

A guide to the best fall-blooming perennials.

Dallas

Wildflowers

Master Gardener Debra Middleton will guide you through planting and maintaining your own wildflower garden.

Cedar Hill

Let's Talk Trees

The best investment you will ever make and it does not have to cost you a fortune.

October 8th

Arlington

Bulbs

What bulbs grow best here? When, where and how do you plant them?

Colleyville

Fall Perennials

A guide to the best fall-blooming perennials.

Dallas

Proper Tree Planting

Arborist Tyson Woods will show us how to find a tree's root flare and expose it properly.

Cedar Hill

Texas Tough

Let's walk the gardens and talk about the various plants that have out-performed our expectations.

October 15th

Arlington

Passing Along Plants

The secrets of saving seeds and taking cuttings.

Colleyville

Composting/Worm Composting

Tips on composting leaves and grass clippings using molasses, beer and flat 7-up.

Dallas

Fall Perennials

A guide to the best fall-blooming perennials.

Cedar Hill

Fall Perennials

October 22nd

Arlington

Garden Maintenance

How do I get my garden ready for winter?

Colleyville

Garden Maintenance

Dallas

Fall & Winter Birds.

Join Audubon Society member Carolyn Oldham for tips on taking care of our fall and winter guests and residents.

Cedar Hill

Garden Maintenance

Fall salad greens

Hopefully by the time you read this we have had a break in the weather. You must take some time this fall and plant a small patch of salad greens. It is so easy. Sprinkle the seeds in a small spot or even a large wide-mouthed pot where you will get at least 6 hours of sun. Keep the seeds evenly moist. Do this every other week throughout the fall and winter unless we have an extremely cold spell. In less than a month you will be harvesting bowls of fresh mixed greens such as 'Freckles' romaine, 'Lolla Rossa' and 'Red Sails' lettuces, 'Bon Vivant' mesclun, mizuna mustard and 'Bloomsdale' spinach.

Many of these are 'cut and come again' greens. As soon as they are an inch or two high cut with scissors to the base of the plant. You should get several cuttings from that same patch. Cut in the morning before you go to work and store in the refrigerator until your evening meal.

Protect with floating row cover (it will give you about 8 degrees of winter protection) when temperatures dip much below freezing.

Vicki's perennial picks (cont')

large square stems in mid summer. As fall sets in, get ready for a display of electric blue salvia-like flowers, atop each stem. Definitely worth the wait, your gardening friends will ask for a start. 3 feet wide X 4 feet tall

Odontonema stricta, commonly known as Red Spike: We have been growing this perennial in our Cedar Hill demo gardens for several years. Easy to grow, it produces 2 to 3 foot spikes of small red tubular flowers that the hummers just love. The rosette of shiny green leaves that this perennial produces is attractive all by itself, but the flowers that follow are a definite asset in your garden.

Salvia elegans 'Sonora Red': Discovered by plantsman Logan Calhoun in Mexico, this salvia will remind you of pineapple sage. Blooming late in the fall, it is covered with red spikes of color. Blooms appear when temperatures start to cool at night. Mulch well the first couple of years to get this one established and watch the butterflies and hummers "live it up" as they discover it.

Lobelia laxiflora: Another discovery we obtained from plantsman Logan Calhoun. Somewhat evergreen, it produces small tubular flowers of orange and yellow. The hummers will love it and it is ever so drought tolerant. Loves our Texas heat.

Scutellaria wrightii: A master gardener friend shared this great perennial with Barney some years ago. We ran out of this early in the spring and now have it available. A great heat-loving, low-growing ground cover, use it up toward the front of the border. Deep purple flowers cover this plant from summer into fall. Needs good drainage and blends nicely with other Texas natives. 10 inches tall and 12 to 14 inches across. Great used on a stonewall.

For a complete, up-to-date list of all of the *Redenta's 50*, go to redentas.com.



Care & feeding of old roses

by Vicki Thaxton

One of my favorite additions to any landscape is old garden roses. This summer has been so hot and dry and most of our roses have just rested or done their best to stay alive. One trick that will really get these beauties going is to get out there and give them a "hair cut". Cut out any dead wood you can see. Now stand back and begin cutting above an outside node and cut back each stem by at least one third. Now grab a handful of *Redenta's Rose and Flower Food* and throw it on the base of the plant and scratch it in a bit. Now water it in and stand back. At first you may say to yourself "gosh...there is not much there". Just wait and be delightfully surprised at the results of your efforts. The cooler nights and milder days are going to turn these beauties into beautiful bouquets of color.

If you are dealing with climbers, check to see if your rose is a "onetime bloomer". If this is the case, be cautious about cutting back your rose, as it is the older wood that produces blossoms for next year's flower production. If you are not sure about whether or not it is a one time bloomer, think about whether or not it has produced any flowers over the summer season. If it only produces flowers in the early spring and absolutely nothing happened after that, it is possible you are growing what we call a one-time producer. Do not cut or prune this rose until after it flowers in the spring.

Each of our stores will have an assortment of various roses for your selection. Do stop by and check out this wonderful and rewarding addition to your garden.

Passing along plants

Do you or your sister or your mother have a favorite rose that you want to keep in the family? Have you walked by a plant in a neighbor's garden all summer long wishing you could have that same

plant in your garden next summer? Then it sounds like you are a candidate for learning how to propagate. Here are some basic guidelines to follow to either collect some seeds or propagate a rose from cuttings:

Most plants set seed in late summer to late fall. You will not be guaranteed the same plant from seed if you collect seeds from a hybrid plant. When a plant finishes flowering it sets seeds. Plan to collect the seeds when the weather is dry (not usually a problem here in north Texas!). Place the seed heads in a brown paper bag. Break them open over a piece of paper, rubbing between your hands to release the seeds. Make sure the seeds are dry and place in an envelope or jar. Seal, label and store in a dry place until spring.

Taking cuttings of a favorite rose is really quite easy and this is a great time of year to do so. Just cut off a 3 to 6 inch section of a rose cane that has finished blooming, making sure it has a few leaves and three or 4 axillary buds (little green bumps where the leaves join the cane) along it. Keep it moist. You can then just stick them into moist soil in your garden. Use liquid seaweed as a root stimulator, or willow water (water that has had willow twigs soaking in it overnight). Remove the bottom leaves (the ones that will be underground).

If you prefer to keep tabs on them in a container, then stick the cuttings into pre-moistened (not soggy) potting soil with at least one of the axillary buds under the soil to act as a possible rooting site. Stick several of these cuttings around the pot near the edges. Cover with a large glass jar. Check to make sure it is not too moist, a situation that could lead to fungal diseases and rot. It can take 6 to 12 weeks to root.

Once the new foliage starts growing and the cutting resists a gentle tug, it has probably rooted. Remove the cover and handle like a new plant.

www.redentas.com

V-8 for landscapes

by Felicia Hays

After another long hot and dry summer the plants in our yards could really use a pick-me-up this fall. One product all of us who work in Cedar Hill love to use is *Bioform*. We think of it as sort of a "V-8" for our landscapes. *Bioform* mixed with water and sprayed onto the leaves of vegetation gives back to the plants much needed nutrition lost due to heat, and to the leaching of nutrients after watering. In fact, plants can actually take in nutrients much faster from a foliar feeding than from an application to their root system.

Bioform contains seaweed, bone meal, fish emulsion, and molasses, all excellent sources of trace minerals and nutrients. It's safe to use on everything in your yard...from vegetables to turf. Just remember *Bioform* is sold as a concentrate--follow the dilution rates and spray during the cooler times of the day. *Bioform* also acts as a gentle root stimulator for planting and transplanting. When we plant wet-to-wet we always add the diluted *Bioform* to the hole before planting while we soak our new plant or transplant in some of the same mixture. This gives the plant roots an extra boost to take hold. Foliar feeding your plants three or four times a year will give you stronger, healthy plants that can better withstand our unpredictable weather. *Bioform* is one organic product you don't want to be without!!!

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



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