

Editorial

As another spring peaks around the corner, Redenta's begins its twelfth year in business. We have worked hard all these years to be the very best. Our goals have been many - a great selection of herbs, perennials and old garden roses, a staff that loves to share their knowledge of and enthusiasm for gardening, a commitment to organic gardening (there just is no other way), a design team that can turn your back yard into an outdoor living space you never dreamed possible and a unique selection of garden ware for both your indoor and outdoor gardens.

And Redenta's does not want to stand still! With this newsletter I am sure you will notice some changes. You are all aware that we are a family business. As such, there is always the point in time that the "next generation" begins to have much more influence. This "fresh" look is all the work of our son, Michael. I must admit that I have been more than pleasantly surprised by his abilities - I do hope that you will agree with me.

It is not just a change in image. It is a renewed effort to serve YOU better - with the unique products that YOU want, with the personalized and individual service that YOU want and with the exciting, warm and friendly stores that YOU want.

I do miss those late winter days that I would spend hours in my garden getting ready for spring. But I am with you every moment of the way - planning an exciting spring not so much for my garden but for all of YOUR gardens!

Ruth Kinler
Owner/ President - Redenta's Inc.
ruth@redentas.com

Live Dirt Doctor broadcast

Howard Garrett will be broadcasting his Saturday show live from the Dallas Redenta's on March 8 from 11:00 - 12:00 and will be around for a couple of hours to meet folks and answer questions.



Our first shipment of old garden roses

has arrived! These are the roses that have weathered the test of time in old Texas gardens and in the gardens of Redenta's customers for the past 11 years. We have well over one hundred varieties of roses, including many of the David Austin roses. All of our roses are "own root" roses - we do not carry any grafted plants.

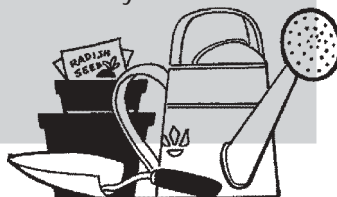
You will also hear a lot of press this year about the EarthKind™ roses, a program developed by Texas A&M horticulturists over the past three years. We have to admit that many of these roses have been among our favorites since the beginning - the Mutabilis rose has been a show stopper at the Dallas store for years - and I can guarantee it gets minimal care - we just do not have the time!

EarthKind™ roses: Sea Foam, Marie Daly, The Fairy, Caldwell Pink, Knock Out, Perle D'or, Belinda's Dream, Elsie Poulson, Katy Road Pink, Mutabilis, Climbing Pinkie.

Handouts with full descriptions are available in the stores.

Spring hours

All three Redenta's will be open until 7:00 pm Monday - Friday in April and May.



Coupon

\$10 off on a purchase of \$50 or more *or* \$25 off on a purchase of \$100 or more.

Items must be rung up at same time. One time use. No facsimiles. Must be surrendered at time of purchase. Expires March 16th.

corn gluten meal

by Sydney Herndon

Source By-product of wet milling process to make corn starch. Originally used in live stock and pet food (60% protein).

History Discovered as a seed inhibitor by Iowa State University, Dr. Nick Christians 1986.

How does it work? Corn Gluten Meal works on the cell wall of the roots. The roots do not form; therefore the plant can not take in water and dies.

How to use The timing of application is most important, that is, the time of seed germination. Apply at 20 pounds per 1000 square feet, in early spring (usually **February 15th to March 15th**) and fall (September 15th to October 15th). It is important to water product in well (one inch) immediately after application and then withhold water for a while for best control. Do not apply in areas where you want seeds to grow in the next two or three months.

What is affected? Any seeds present. Annual weeds such as crabgrass, goosegrass, sandburs, rescuegrass, annual bluegrass, ryegrass, broadleaf weeds, dandelion, lambsquarter, clover, henbit, purslane, poa annua, chickweed and many others. Established plants and seedlings with true leaves will not be harmed.

Added bonus Corn Gluten Meal is 10% nitrogen, therefore a good source of slow release fertilizer. It also has trace amounts of phosphorus which helps in energy transfer and root formation and potassium which helps in the water balance of the plant, stress tolerance and balance between root and leaf growth.

Safety Corn Gluten Meal can be used around pets and people. Can be used on food crops up to day of harvest. The only known problem is allergies from inhalation of dust (and we always give a free dust mask with purchase of the product).

profile

I am very proud of the three people that manage our stores. Brandi Ellis who manages the Colleyville location joined Redenta's two years ago in our Arlington store. Brandi has a degree in Anthropology from U. T. A. and is a graduate of Grapevine High School so she is familiar with the Grapevine-Colleyville area. Brandi is also an accomplished dancer and taught dance for several years (you just may catch her dancing to the music when you visit the store!). Brandi takes great pride in her store and it has never looked better.

Along with our Arlington manager she accompanied me recently to the Atlanta gift market to help pick out new, exciting lines of garden ware. I think you will find Brandi has created a great attitude in Colleyville and I'm sure you will enjoy your next visit there.



bed prep made simple

The most important step in the success of a garden is to insure that the bed is properly prepared before planting. If a new planting bed is in your plans for the spring, be sure to ask for our *Planting Guide* handout to guide you through the process. Actually, except for large jobs, an application of four inches of compost and the appropriate amount of *Redenta's Bed Prep* will do the trick. If you are just rejuvenating old, tired beds, just add one inch of compost and the appropriate amount of *Redenta's Bed Prep*. *Redenta's Bed Prep* contains all of the soil amendments we recommend already mixed and ready to apply. Be sure to follow the instructions in the handout on the proper method of placing the plants in the prepared bed.



this month in your garden . . .

What to prune...when to prune...

- Cut back ornamental grasses fairly close to the ground before the new leaves emerge.
- Remove old flower stems and cut back to where the new growth begins on "herbaceous perennials". These are the non woody perennials that typically die back to the ground each winter such as purple coneflower, gaura, turk's cap, hostas, ruellias, coreopsis, most salvias, rudbeckia and veronica.
- Cut back woody perennials such as salvia Greggii, artemisia 'Powis Castle' and lantana to no more than a foot. Russian sage and flame acanthus fall in to this category, though we find that cutting them back to the ground results in a bushier plant.
- Cut back severely those shrubs that flower on new wood – buddleia, trumpet vine, caryopteris, and Pee Gee hydrangea. Hydrangea macrophylla, on the other hand, blooms on branches created in late summer or fall. Prune stems that have produced flowers down to the ground and also remove older, weaker shoots.
- Do not prune spring blooming shrubs till after they bloom - forsythia, lady banks and other spring blooming roses, Carolina jessamine, pieris, azalea, mock orange, deutzia, spirea and quince.
- Old garden roses just to keep in shape and to remove dead or diseased canes.

Plant...

- Cool season vegetables. We have in stock already such a wide variety...arugula, asparagus, cutting celery, root celery, cilantro, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, kohlrabi, cress, dandelion, endive, escarole, mustard greens, cipollini onions, bunching onions, Korean heirloom onions, pac choi, potatoes, several varieties of lettuce, five varieties of radicchio, shallots, spinach, eight varieties of garlic, strawberries and many, many more plants and a wide variety of seeds as well.
- Cool season annuals such as snapdragons, poppies, native bachelor buttons, ranunculus, primula, alyssum, gerbera daisy and geraniums.
- All hardy herbs, perennials, shrubs, groundcovers, vines and trees.

Fertilize...

- Your entire yard with an organic fertilizer. If you have turf areas that have had weeds reseeding (including grass burs), then you might want to use Corn Gluten Meal instead.

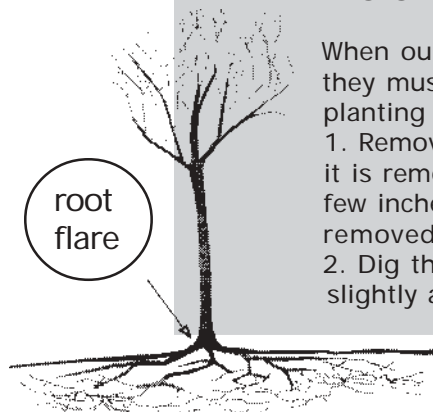
Apply...

- Beneficial nematodes, if you have had a problem with thrips on your roses.

Mrs. MEYER'S[™]
CLEAN DAY

Mrs. Meyers adds two new products to her line . . . a Counter Top Spray in Lavender and Lemon Verbena and a 32 oz. Hand Soap refill.

Tree Tip



When our landscape crew plants a tree there are two very important steps they must take to insure that the top of the "root flare" is exposed when planting is complete.

1. Remove excess dirt from the top of the root flare from the root ball after it is removed from the container. Almost all container-grown trees have a few inches of excess dirt that have been added over time and must be removed.
2. Dig the hole only deep enough to allow the top of the root flare to be slightly above grade when placing the tree in the hole.

For complete instructions on planting a tree, ask for Redenta's handout, *Tree & Shrub Planting and Care Guide*.

Members of the Dirt Doctor's Ground Crew receive the monthly magazine dedicated to the organic approach to living, *The Dirt Doctor's Dirt*. They also receive a 10% discount at Redenta's on organic products and can attend "members only" seminars given by organic authority, Howard Garrett. To receive information about joining and to receive Howard's free organic handouts, call 866-444-3478 (toll free).

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.

Organic Fertilization Service

It's not too late to get a free estimate. Our next round is in April. Call the landscape office at 817-469-6786.



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 Open until 7:00 - April & May (Mon -Fri)			
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