

Editorial

Last week as I was working in the Arlington store, I looked up and recognized one of our gardeners that has been coming there since the first year we opened. I was so glad to see her, give her a hug and then talk about her two "little" girls that used to shop with her – one of whom is getting married this summer! This has occurred several times in the past month, each time reminding me of one of the reasons I started this business in the first place. A good part of the quality of my life is the interaction with the gardeners I meet every day.

In our very first newsletter, the fall of 1992, I related to you then about how I wanted Redenta's to be "the place you come when you are looking for someone to share with you the excitement and potential of your garden." I wanted then and still strive to provide you with a unique gardening experience. New and different plants, fresh and exciting merchandising and warm and friendly people are all part of that experience. And they are our top priorities.

I cringe when I sometimes hear us referred to as a "chain" of stores. That is the furthest thing from my mind. Each of our shops is a gathering place where gardeners get together with fellow gardeners, share gardening thoughts, renew old acquaintances. Sometimes that is with other customers coming in the doors, more often it is with our people who are gardeners themselves and want to share their love of gardening with you.

And we are working hard to continue those relationships. The newsletters, the e-updates, the calendar and the web site are all designed so that we can communicate – and you have certainly done that in these past few weeks. We have been overwhelmed with the kind and positive words so many of you have written as you have re-signed up for our newsletters. We are grateful, but do know we must constantly continue to work hard so that you can have an experience in gardening the way it was meant to be.



redenta's

www.redentas.com

Special Event

PERENNIAL DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

813 Straus Road, Cedar Hill
972.291.7650

10:30 - A Treasury of
Perennials and Native Plants
by Rosa Finsley

1:00 - Great Things
come in Small Packages
by Vicki Thaxton

At our
Cedar Hill
store.

Perennial Day is another one of our major events of the year at the Cedar Hill store. This year, nationally recognized landscape architect Rosa Finsley will share her favorite perennials and our own Vicki Thaxton will help you discover the joys of perennial gardening.

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.

Is this your last Newsletter?

It's been several years since we cleaned up our mailing list. If you haven't signed up yet for 2005 and you want to keep receiving it, see back page for instructions.

SATURDAY MORNING IN THE GARDEN

We have received an enthusiastic response to our informal Saturday morning gardener get togethers. These are not formal lectures but rather are a gathering of fellow gardeners in an area of the store for a "show and tell" by members of my staff that will serve as a quick fix of gardening before you start your weekend projects.

Listed below are the topics for the rest of the month. To get more details on each of the events, and to view the May and June events, go to the web site, www.redentas.com.

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 (see front page)

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

April 30th

Arlington

Creature Features in the Garden for Kids – Brandi Ellis

Colleyville

Container Water Features – Dee McKnight

Dallas

Incorporating Tropical Color in the Garden – speaker tba

Cedar Hill

What's Blooming in the Garden at Cedar Hill? – Ruth Kinler

Zexmenia

by Carolyn Oldham

Every garden needs a plant that starts with a Z!

Want a drought-tolerant, long-blooming (May to November), easy-care (no deadheading required), butterfly-attracting Texas native perennial for your garden? Plant Zexmenia- every garden needs a plant that starts with a Z! Orangey yellow daisy-like flowers mound to 2 feet tall and 3 feet wide all summer long. This plant will even do quite well as a groundcover with some shade where it will bloom less brilliantly. Prune it back in the middle of summer to keep it tidy or just let it grow.

You will receive high horticultural praise from the neighbors for this plant. Don't worry - we won't tell them how easy it is!

Tools of the trade

by Diane Lilley

Felco pruners

If you have never tried Felco pruners now is the time. They are the Cadillac of gardening tools. With spring arriving you need pruners that stay sharp and are easy on your hands and wrists. These are light in weight with replaceable blades and a non-slip handle.

With a lifetime warranty they are worth the investment. You'll wish that you had treated yourself sooner!

Texas Mountain Laurel

by Karri McGovern

a wonderful ornamental Texas native

Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*) is a wonderful ornamental Texas native perfectly suited for home landscapes. Evergreen, flowering and drought tolerant, it occurs naturally throughout the southern portions of north central Texas and throughout the rocky, thin soils of west Texas. Also called Mescal Bean, it usually stays below 18 feet tall and with age, will develop into an ornamental small tree.

What makes this shrub so special is its remarkable blossoms. Beginning just as the redbuds and plums are at peak bloom time in mid-March, Texas Mountain Laurel produces luscious, wisteria-like blossoms through April. The blossoms are powerfully fragrant, smelling intensely of grape soda or grape Kool-Aid. Becoming more prolific each spring as the shrub matures, the pendulous flowers will eventually mask the leaves. The blooms are followed by woody pods, which contain hard-coated seeds that turn red with age. However, because the flowers and seeds are poisonous, parents with young children should plant the shrub with caution.

Despite its reputation of being a slow-grower, Texas Mountain Laurel will achieve a moderate growth rate in the more fertile and accommodating soils of the home landscape. Its beautiful flowers, relatively small stature and shiny leaves make it an ideal candidate for a specimen plant or a lovely addition to the back of a herbaceous border.

P.S. There is a lovely specimen planted at our Cedar Hill store that was planted in 1995 and is 5-6 feet tall.

If you haven't already, you must sign up to get the rest of the 2005 Newsletters (see back page).

roses, roses, roses

by Vicki Thaxton

So, you've cleaned up those beds from last year, you've cut back the perennials and now you are saying to yourself, "I need some color." Before you pick up that flat of annuals, stop and give this idea some thought—ROSES, ROSES, ROSES. Now, don't get scared, it's easier than you might imagine. Believe it or not,

you can incorporate a variety of old garden roses into your landscape and provide season after season of color for years to come.



These old "time tested" varieties we call "old garden roses" are such a delight to any gardener who has not tried them before. Trust me, I've got several planted in my own landscape and I am lazy.

Requirements include 4 to 6 hours of sun, good soil preparation and a bit of watering to get started. After that, an occasional hair cut and a toss of organic fertilizer will insure great success and many seasons of blooming color.

Some of the classes that are the easiest to grow include Chinas, Floribundas, Polyanthas and a number of Found roses. Some of my personal favorites are:

Gruss an Tepliz – a cherry red show stopper. Grows healthy foliage, 3 to 4 feet.

Valentine – long pointed velvety semi-double flowers. Great foliage, 3 to 4 feet.

Knockout – as the name implies, it will knock you out with almost continuous blooms of cherry red flowers and beautiful foliage. Also, 3 to 4 feet.

Weeping China Doll – fantastic in containers—even better in the ground. Clusters of medium pink flowers appear all summer long. It loves to be cut on (with the hedge cutters, I might add) and just keeps producing months of color. 2 feet wide x 2 feet tall.

Three alarm fire ant control

by Karen Lozano

With all of the rain we've had this spring, you probably have fire ants. Spinosad (pronounced spin-o-sid) is a product I think every gardener should add to their organic repertoire. It's a bacteria that is enjoyed by the entire colony and delivered to the queen. Results—eradication in 24 to 36 hours and complete colony destruction within 3 to 14 days. One pound will treat up to 10,000 sq. ft. with a broadcast application or you may treat individual mounds. Either way the results are fantastic. For best results do not water for 24 hours after application.

Another option for those nasty fire ants are beneficial nematodes which also target fleas and grubs. And, you may spot treat with a mound drench of compost tea, orange oil and molasses. An application of dry molasses each spring can also help reduce fire ant populations due to the natural sulfur content found in unrefined molasses. With all these options, you can beat the fire ants this year.

e-update

We sent out our first monthly email newsletter on March 21st. If you didn't get yours, which included a **40% discount coupon**, one of two things probably happened:

1. You're not signed up (or we don't have your correct email address). Sign up by sending an email to newsletter@redentas.com with "e-update signup" in the subject line or use the sign up form on the web site, redentas.com.
2. You didn't open the email. People are very wary about opening emails from a name they don't immediately recognize. Only about half of the people who received the newsletter on their computers opened it up. If you get an email from "Ruth Kinler," or from "Redenta's," that's the e-update. There will be some sort of coupon or special in each e-update that will not be available anywhere else.

Vegetable garden memories

by Donna Lang

Easter has come and the threat of frost has gone. It's time to plant a vegetable garden. Spring always takes me back to my childhood. My entire life, my father has planted a vegetable garden. Growing up in that backyard was great. A fence separated the garden and the yard where blackberry vines grew. My mother would send me out with a bowl to pick berries; only I would eat as many as I would pick. We also had peach and plum trees, which were harvested for jams and jellies. We had a compost pile at one end of the garden, which I'm sure, thrilled the neighbors. I remember my father spending hours behind the tiller turning the soil. My job was to deliver iced tea or lemonade when he took a break. We sat in the shade of a big tree out back and let the breeze cool us. Dad would look at the garden, plotting and planning in his head.

He always planted onions, potatoes and radishes first. Then he planted the tomatoes and peppers. He planted according to the light and dark of the moon. He made his own tomato cages which stayed stored behind the shed for use every year. We would go to the feed store to purchase the baby tomato plants and the seed for the remaining vegetables. This always included a discussion as to what new breed was out this year and which one gave the best yield. We purchased seed for the remaining vegetables. That was my job. Dad would cut the rows in with a hoe and I went behind him and dropped in the seeds. My other job was to weed the garden. It was torture, at the time. Now I find weeding therapeutic. Perhaps I'm longing for a simpler time in my life?

We furnished our family and the neighborhood with vegetables and fruit in the summer. It was a slower paced time. I long for those days I considered boring at the age of nine or ten. This year I planted a blackberry vine along the back fence at my home, near my tomatoes. Thanks, Dad.

\$10 OFF
A PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE

\$25 OFF
A PURCHASE OF \$100 OR MORE

\$75 OFF
A PURCHASE OF \$250 OR MORE

THE SMALL PRINT: Items must be rung up at same time. One time use per coupon. 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. Cannot be combined with other discounts or coupons. **Expires April 25th.**

Don't forget to check the web site regularly for the latest plants from the Redenta's 50.
www.redentas.com

Spring hours
All four Redenta's will be open until 7:00 pm Monday - Friday through May 27th.



Notes from Ruth is published seasonally by Ruth Kinler with a lot of help from her wonderful staff of gardeners. We welcome any comments or suggestions.

Printed on recycled paper

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| Hours: Monday through Saturday 9-6 Sunday 10-5 open weekdays until 7 through May 27th | | | |
| Arlington 5111 West Arkansas Lane Arlington, Texas 76016 817.451.2149 fax 817.451.2199 | Colleyville 6230 Colleyville Blvd. Colleyville, Texas 76034 817.488.3525 fax 817.488.7357 | Dallas 2001 Skillman Street Dallas, Texas 75206 214.823.9421 fax 214.828.2955 | Cedar Hill 813 Straus Road Cedar Hill, Texas 75104 972.291.7650 fax 972.293.9673 |

1. Go to the web site, www.redentas.com, and click on the Newsletter box 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 this is the case, you haven't signed up yet to receive future newsletters. Use one of the options listed to insure continued delivery.

This is your last newsletter if the words "LAST ISSUE" appear in the box below

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