

PLANT QUESTIONS

What are some shrubs we can plant in shade? Are any of them deer proof?

Viburnums, nandina, pittosporum, hollies, and primrose jasmine all perform well in the shade. The viburnums and primrose jasmine seem to be deer proof in all situations. Nandinas and pittosporum do escape deer browsing in some locations and neighborhoods.

Our tulips are up. Should we fertilize them? How much water do they need? Since the tulips will be annuals in South and Central Texas, it is not necessary to fertilize them.

I want to move my bougainvillea plant to a sunnier location. Can I transplant it now? You should be able to relocate your bougainvillea at this time. It may be necessary to cut back some of the new growth. When you dig up the plant get as big a root ball as you can handle, keeping the soil intact around the roots. The plant should do fine.

If you have gardening or landscaping questions we have the answers. Just ask any of the friendly, knowledgeable, and experienced nursery staff at Milberger's Nursery.



Monarch sipping nectar from Butterfly Weed.

The bright orange or red to yellow flowers of Butterfly Weed attract monarch butterfly adults to the nectar, and it is a crucial larval food plant for the migrating monarch.

Milkweed is easy to grow, spreading by underground roots, and are best planted in peripheral areas of the landscape, where "weediness" won't be a problem.

WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN

Attracting Butterflies

By Keith Hansen, AgriLife Extension Agent

Butterflies are the gems of the insect world. Their graceful flight and bright colors never fail to delight children and adults alike. I still get excited when I see a colorful butterfly, especially ones that are unusual or not frequently seen. You don't need a fancy facility to attract butterflies to your own yard. Large masses of color will draw in both native and migrating species, and if the right foods are present, they'll probably hang around and visit for many days. Provide Food and They Will Come. It is important to provide food plants not only for the adult butterfly, but also for the less-attractive larval stage. By supplying larval food plants, butterflies will be attracted to your yard to lay their eggs for future generations.

(MORE BUTTERFLIES ON PAGE THREE)

MAY GARDENING EVENTS

Sat., May 27 9am 'til 5pm

The **Festival of Flowers** is San Antonio's most exciting gardening-exclusive event. Presented by San Antonio Water System, it is a day of informative seminars and shopping for plants, landscape materials and gardening accessories. At the Alzafar Shrine (901 N. Loop 1604 West) \$6 adult admissions (see page 5 for \$1-off coupon) www.safestivalofflowers.com.

Sat., May 27 – 10 'til 11am

Beautiful Bees at Milberger's Kids Gardening Class. Your kids will see how a bee hive works and why they are important to our plants and flowers. The class will be thought by Camaran Perez, Professional Beekeeper with Perez Beekeeping, No one will get stung. Milberger's Nursery provides the materials and classes are free but call to reserve a spot because class size is limited: 210-497-3760.

Sat., May 27 – Starts at 10:30

Citrus Trees for your Patio and Landscape. In San Antonio you can successfully grow bountiful citrus from trees planted in your landscape or in containers. The trick is to select varieties that do well in our area and protect them from the occasional freezes that we get. Learn how to be successful with citrus at this free Earth-Kind Seminar presented by David Rodriguez, Extension Horticulturist for Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service. Bring a notebook. 210-497-3760.

Find more Gardening Events – visit
www.MilbergerNursery.com



To find us:
Take the Bulverde Exit off of Loop 1604. The entrance to Milberger's is next to the Valero gas station.

Milberger's Landscape Nursery

Open 9:00 to 6:00 Monday to Saturday
And 10:00 to 5:00 on Sundays

3920 North Loop 1604
San Antonio, TX 78247
(210) 497-3760

Or on the World Wide Web at
www.milbergernursery.com
nursery@milbergersa.com

Milberger's Nursery May Features

MAY is One of the most COLORFUL TIMES OF THE YEAR

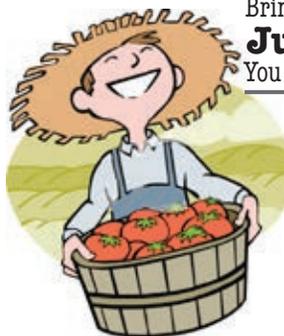
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Bring your best tomatoes to Milbergers
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You could win in one of four categories:



CHERRY TOMATOES
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Best of Show

Every one who enters receives a
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Milberger's has it all:
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PUMPS AND SUPPLIES
KOI WATER PLANTS

Not only do water features add
an **AIR OF TRANQUILITY**
to your landscape they
INCREASE THE VALUE
of your property.



Watch for our weekly sale specials in
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www.MilbergerNursery.com

Gardening South Texas on the air at KLUP (am 930)

Saturday and Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To have your gardening questions answered during show hours ONLY

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Our Writers have the answers: **Dr. Jerry Parsons** is a well renown Horticulture Specialist who is retired from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in San Antonio; **Dr. Calvin Finch** is the retired Director of Water Conservation and Technology at the Texas A&M University System. The Gardening Newsletter for South Central Texas is edited by Marc Hess at mhess@hctc.coop.

WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN

Attracting Butterflies

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Butterflies also like damp areas where they can sip water and dissolved salts from the mud. This is called “puddling”. You can make your own puddle by fixing a spot in the sun near your flower garden where the soil will stay damp and visiting butterflies can easily spot it. Keep the soil constantly moist. You may not attract any butterflies, but when you do see them resting else-where on a muddy patch of ground, you’ll know what they are doing.



Giant Swallowtail munching on Garden Phlox. Also known as John Fanick Perennial this hardy perennial attracts butterflies with its with showy clusters of light pink blossoms with darker pink throats. Compact growth habit; dark green foliage it tolerates heat, drought and is a Texas Superstar™.

“Providing nectar sources for butterflies is important due to habitat loss and increased use of pesticides in crop fields. You can do your part to provide sanctuary for these insects — and save water while doing so.”

~ Sarah Galvan, SAWS Conservation Consultant

Overripe fruit will also draw many butterflies. A shallow pan on the edge of the garden filled with slices of melon or banana will attract a lot of attention. Try using cantaloupe rinds clipped to a coat hanger and hung in a sunny spot for drawing butterflies. Nearly any kind of overripe fruit, especially if it is fermenting, will host a crowd of bibbers.

Some butterflies are drawn to very specific plants, while others will visit nearly any attractive flower that provides nectar. Many species need very particular plants on which to lay their eggs. For example, the beautiful orange, silver and black Gulf Fritillary butterflies lay their eggs on passionflower or may-pop vines and it would be unusual to not find the rusty red caterpillars munching away on the leaves or the adults flitting around. Passionflower vines are easy to grow and have beautiful flowers. Provide plenty of room for the vines to sucker and run.

Milberger’s new butterfly garden has been certified by the North American Butterfly Association. Stop by and see exactly how you can transform a portion of your landscape into a beautiful haven for butterflies and hummingbirds. You can also find our weekly sale items on our web site at www.milbergernursery.com.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Home Grown Avocados & Pomegranates

By Monte Nesbitt, Larry Stein, and Jim Kamas
Extension Fruit Specialists, The Texas A&M University System

Avocados are widely consumed in Texas, in part because of the popularity of Tex-Mex cuisine. In addition to their unique flavor, they have nutritional benefits. Avocados have more potassium than do bananas and are a good source of vitamins. The flesh is about 15 percent oil or fat, much of which is in the healthy, monounsaturated form. The fruit has been studied for its role in lowering cholesterol and limiting certain forms of oral cancer.



Avocados mature on the tree, but only ripen once they are taken off the tree. You can tell that an avocado is ripe when they feel heavy for their size and are dark in color. If you want to quicken the ripening process, simply put one in brown paper bag for 2-4 days. You can speed this process up even more by putting adding a banana to the bag.

The most limiting factor to success with avocado trees is severe cold. Avocado is a tropical to subtropical tree so your planting site should be chosen with cold protection in mind. Avocado trees are adapted to a wide range of soil types, preferring coarse, well-drained soils. Trees will not tolerate flooding or poorly drained soils.

Interest in growing pomegranates has increased in recent years because their pulp and juice contain high levels of antioxidants, which are thought to improve health. The shrub also has orange-red flowers and colorful fruit that make it an attractive ornamental.

The leaves are deciduous, dark green, and usually glossy. The plant often has thorns along its branches. Pomegranates grow well in areas with hot, dry summers like we have here in South Texas. Some varieties can tolerate temperatures as low as 10°F; others are damaged at 18°F. Many fruiting types should survive most winters throughout the central, southern, and southeastern parts of Texas.



Like crape myrtles, the **pomegranate** (*Punica granatum*) is a member of the Lythraceae family, which includes about 620 species. Although the plant can be trained as a small tree, it is more commonly grown as a bushy shrub.

Milberger's has the largest selection of fresh, well-rooted trees in the area. Our South Texas landscape and tree experts can give you advice on which A&M recommended trees would be most suitable for your landscape. Visit our web site at www.MilbergerNursery.com and click through to our on-line tree lot for section and planting guidelines.

20th ANNUAL

San Antonio Festival of Flowers

The Festival of Flowers is San Antonio’s most exciting gardening-exclusive event. Presented by San Antonio Water System, it is a day of informative seminars and shopping for plants, landscape materials and gardening accessories. It’s a time to swap plants and seeds at the CityWide Plant Exchange – the largest exchange in the state.

Discuss with the experts the latest in natural and organic gardening at the Organic Roundtable.

“For many Festival of Flowers attendees the highlight of the event is the **City-Wide Plant Exchange** where over 1200 plants are exchanged between 9am and 3pm. You bring the plants you want to trade, receive exchange tickets as credit, and then use the tickets to select from available plants.”

~ Calvin Finch

Talk one-on-one with the area’s most experienced gardeners at the “Ask the Expert” booth. See demonstrations on rain water harvesting, floral design and herb cooking.



12 months of butterfly gardening with **Calvin Finch**



Natural pest control techniques with **Skip Richter**



The water-saving garden with **Pam Penick**

...and many more



\$1 off

ONE REGULAR ADULT ADMISSION TO THE 2017 San Antonio Festival of Flowers

SATURDAY ~ MAY 27, 2017 ~ 9AM - 5PM

PRESENT THIS COUPON WHEN YOU ENTER THE FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

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WATER GARDENING

Why Add A Water Garden?

By Julie Mancini

I received a wide variety of answers when I asked a group of water garden owners, “Why did you build your pond/water garden?” Some wanted to add beauty to their yards, while some wanted to camouflage less-desirable aspects of their neighborhoods. Others took advantage of accidents or pre-existing features on their properties. The reasons for building a pond or water garden are as varied as the water features that are created. Here are some of the most common responses:

“Compared with other types of gardens, water gardens require a minimum of attention. There is very little weeding, certainly no watering, and there are fewer insects or diseases which attack the plants. Clear water is usually the primary goal of any water gardener.”

~ Jerry Parsons

Improve the Look of The Property. A water garden can be a soothing addition to your backyard

Use Otherwise Wasted Space and take advantage of wasted space in the corner of your landscape.



Water will attract birds and wildlife to your yard. To encourage more wildlife make sure you have plenty of indigenous trees and plant life in the area. Birds, frogs and insects are more likely to frequent your garden when there is always a source of water available.

Cut Down Street Noise:

“We wanted a relaxing place by our outside dining area with a waterfall to mask street noises,” said one respondent, adding that having dinner outside has been wonderful since the water feature was added to his property.

The most common response included the word **Relaxation**. It is “very relaxing to sit in the backyard and listen to the gurgling water going over the waterfall. It has created a nice relaxing place for us to unwind from the day-to-day stressful activities.”

Whether you want to install your own water garden or have it installed by professionals, Milberger’s has the materials and expertise to help you add a water feature that will add value to your landscape. Visit our web site www.milbergernursery.com for ideas and information.

MAY GARDENING AND LAWCARE TIPS

Planting for Summer Color

By Dr. Jerry Parsons

Plant: For color get the begonias and impatiens in quickly if you expect them to fare well when the heat arrives. Wait to mid-month to plant periwinkles. Hot weather plants include firebush, lantana, poinciana, esperanza, firespike, caladium, coleus, begonia, moss rose, hibiscus, bougainvillea, purslane, cannas and blue princess verbena

Plant sun-loving, heat tolerant annual flowers such as portulaca, purslane, copper plants, lantanas, and ornamental peppers. Transplant vinca (periwinkle) and let your wildflowers go to seed before mowing.

Prune pillar or climbing roses as soon as they have finished their major bloom to allow time for the development of new canes for next spring's blooms. Prune storm-damaged tree branches immediately after damage occurs.

Fertilize: If you have not applied fertilizer to the lawn, May is a good month to fertilize lawn grasses after the lawn grass has been mowed twice. Slow release fertilizers are best because they feed

throughout the growing season and do not leach (wash) into the ground

Odd Jobs: After spring bulbs have finished flowering, wait until the foliage turns brown before cutting it off. Food is being manufactured and stored for next year's blooms. Mulch plants to reduce watering requirements, suppress weed growth and minimize soil temperature changes. Peach fruit should be thinned to six to eight inches apart along the fruiting branches which generally leaves about 600 fruit per mature tree; apples and pears should be thinned to one fruit per spur or cluster.

On the Lookout: To encourage more rapid re-blooming, pinch off old flowers on bedding plants after their first flower cycle is completed. Roses may encounter insect problems. Watch for aphids on tender new growth, thrips on flowers and cucumber beetles on foliage. Beetles are especially a problem if a vegetable garden is nearby. Fear not, this is the normal season of leaf shed for photinias, gardenias, ligustrums, pittosporums and magnolias.

For more detailed and complete Gardening Tips from Jerry Parsons go to our newly redesigned website: **www.MilbergerNursery.com** and follow the newsletter link that reads "**Monthly Gardening Tips.**"

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE FREE

Subscriptions to Milberger's Gardening Newsletter for South Central Texas are free, compliments of Milberger's Landscaping and Nursery. The newsletter is published at the beginning of each month.

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We respect your privacy. Your name will not be shared with anyone not associated with Milberger Nursery.

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Zinnias are one of the easiest flowering plants to grow – they grow quickly and bloom heavily. They make a massive burst of color in your garden, and they attract butterflies.

