

ENCHANTED

NURSERIES & LANDSCAPES



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Enchanted Moments



Summer Surprises

While many will retreat to the cooling comfort of their air conditioned homes during the next months, don't miss out on our summer delights. Some of our favorite plants are only available or really show their stuff in the heat of summer. Beautiful butterflies and dragonflies seem to move slower and linger in the gardens. Don't forget... we also have several sales to look forward to (see calendar on back page.) Enjoy the slow and relaxed pace of summer. We will be looking forward to bringing a little enchantment to your summer days.

Summer's Simple Joys

Now that Summer has arrived, all children are asking that expected question, "What can I do?" Well, there are plenty of things to do but many of those seem too much like work!

I must think back to back to my un-air-conditioned childhood and how our summers were spent. Since air-conditioning was not in homes yet, we did what folks in the South have always done. We let the heat and humidity win- we simply adjusted to it!

Many homes had porches and we children would gather in the hot afternoons and with crayons, and water colors create "masterpieces." We certainly didn't realize that we were on the "cutting edge" when we painted our faces with water colors. Our mothers worried about the paint hurting our skin, but we were determined "artists" and our faces survived! Now even artists must eat (we were not the proverbial "starving artists"!) Cold watermelon was the perfect treat on those hot days.

Can you imagine--no AC, no TV, and a long summer in a small town? Baseball was the sport of choice. As the sun became less intense in the afternoon, some memorable games were played-simple fun for late afternoons.

Lastly, but most memorable, were summer trips to the library. Ah, the library, a little wood cottage, painted white, complete with wood plank floor and ceiling to floor bookcases. This little piece of heaven was complete with a periodical room (or should I say a corner?) This area contained two copies of every National Geographic ever published (or so it seemed). I thought that surely to afford National Geographic was a sign that one had "arrived" in the world. Our librarian seemed to be able to suggest just the right book for me and never, never, would I return books late. Two cents a day seemed a high price to pay plus my mother reminded me that "another child may be waiting to read these books". It may have been the tiniest "Harris County Public Library," but it holds a large place in my heart.

Summer and children, the years change, but not the children. It is a time to perhaps find that thing that awakens them to a joy that will bring them happiness throughout their lives.

---Betty

"All my life through the new sight of nature made me rejoice like a child."

Marie Curie 1867 -1934

Refill, Recycle, and Save!

When you bring back your empty container of Color Star we'll refill it at a savings of 30 to 40%!



Growing with Kids

Gardening is one of the few hobbies that offers hands on activity involving science, math, language, health and nutrition. But don't tell the kids! Children involved in gardening activities gain so much more than we might imagine.....

Environmental stewardship - once engaged in gardening children learn to see the earth as something full of life everywhere they look. Once they are able to appreciate how they are connected to this process they are more likely to take care and responsibility for our precious environment.

Practice in personal growth and social skills - children love to show us what they can do. What an awesome experience for a child to see that they can actually grow a pepper or even a lemon that they may only have seen in the grocery store. How about picking flowers for Mom or a neighbor and being able to say..."I grew these myself!"

Learning about health and nutrition - growing their own food, even a few tomatoes, really gives kids insight into where their food comes from and what goes into their bodies. In addition, gardening is an awesome form of exercise for young and old.

Active learning - no science class can compare to seeing nature in action. When we are in our gardens we learn keen observation skills, whether looking for the seeds to break through the earth or finding the butterfly caterpillars that have devoured the milkweed.

Joy - learning that simple pleasures are often the best and longest lasting. Joy in a sense of accomplishment, joy in the miracles of nature, joy from sharing with others, the joy of sheer beauty and more.... are all right in your own back yard.

Encourage your kids to do a little gardening this Summer! Sometimes we have to be subtle in our approach or they will just think of it as work. Here are a few ideas:

- Plant a fruit tree with the kids and have them help care for it.
- Plant a veggie or herb garden.
- Plant a butterfly garden or just add some butterfly plants to your landscape.
- Plant a few hummingbird attractive plants in the garden.
- Give the kids a "plot" of their own, to plant as they choose.
- Plant a tree and measure it's growth each year.
- Grow a few things from seeds. Sunflowers, cosmos and zinnias are good choices for this time of year.
- Lay in a hammock or on the grass and just look around. The sky, the bugs, the grass the flowers and the trees. Almost anywhere you look the miracles of nature are there for your enjoyment.

This Summer we hope you and your family will "stop and smell the roses!"

Who Makes a Garden

By Douglas Malloch

Whoever makes a garden
Has never worked alone;
The rain has always found it,
The sun has always known;
The wind has blown across it
And helped to scatter seeds;
Whoever makes a garden
Has all the help he needs.

Whoever makes a garden
Should surely not complain,
With someone like the sunshine
And someone like the rain
And someone like the breezes
To aid him in his toil
And someone like the Father
Who gave the garden soil.

Whoever makes a garden
Has, oh, so many friends;
The glory of the morning
The dew when daylight ends.
Rain and wind and sunshine
And dew and fertile sod;
And he who makes a garden
Works hand in hand with God.

"Love is like a butterfly. It goes where it pleases and it pleases wherever it goes."

- Unknown

PALM TREES

Swaying palm trees make me happy! We are fortunate to have the perfect climate for many varieties of palms here along the Gulf Coast. To help you choose the perfect

palms to create your own tropical oasis, keep in mind the palm's mature size, cold hardiness, and other specific needs for healthy growth. The following chart may come in handy.

VARIETY	MATURE SIZE	DESCRIPTION	SPECIFIC NEEDS
Canary Island Date Palm	30' to 40' tall / 20' to 25' across	Long & strong green fronds with a beautiful strong diamond patterned trunk.	This palm needs room to grow and should have been container grown for transplanting success; Cold-hardy to 15 degrees or lower.
Mediterranean Fan Palm	slow growing up to 15' tall / 7' to 15' wide	Usually multi-trunked with grey-green fronds.	Size dependent on number of trunks left growing; good in residential landscape; cold-hardy to single digits.
Windmill Palm	10'-15' tall/ 6' to 8' wide	Smaller palm with 8' to 10' fuzzy trunk; green fronds with silvery undersides.	Good palm for courtyards, entries or even containers; cold-hardy to single digits; full to part-sun; slow-growing.
Sago Palm	8' to 10' tall / 6' to 8' wide	Not a true palm; Sagos exhibit dark green fronds and a striking appearance.	Good landscape palm; slow but steady growth rate; well drained soil preferred; actually a cycad that has changed very little from time of dinosaurs; full to part sun.
Queen Palm	30' to 40' tall / 15' to 20' across	Long green fronds with soft arching habit; smooth trunk; nice movement in a breeze.	Medium rate of growth; full sun; cold-hardy to low twenties; nice specimen in landscape.
Pygmy Date Palm	8' to 12' tall 4' to 6' across	Small palm (miniature); feathery soft green fronds; slender and interesting trunk - often multi-trunked.	Cold-hardy to mid-twenties; plant in protected area or great for containers; sun or shade; likes consistent watering.
Florida Sabal Palm	30' to 40' tall/ 8' to 15' wide	Single- trunked; medium green fronds with a bit of a drooping habit.	Full sun; drought and salt tolerant; State tree of Florida; cold-hardy to single digits.
Mexican Fan Palm	35' to 45' tall / 10' to 15' across	Single trunked; green fronds with graceful drooping habit	Cold-hardy to upper teens; salt tolerant; fast growing; one of the tallest palms; good for landscaping large areas; full sun.
Bismarck Palm	20' to 30' tall / 10' to 12' across	Most unusual blue-gray foliage color; very symmetrical growth habit; single trunked; extremely striking.	Hardy to upper twenties; plant in a protected area; drought and salt tolerant; beautiful contrasting landscape interest.
Pindo Palm	15' to 20' tall / 12' to 15' wide	Feathery light green to grayish pinnate leaves that arch and curve on a thick single trunk.	Good smaller palm for the landscape; slow growing; drought tolerant; full to part-sun; edible fruit; cold-hardy to lower teens.
Texas Sabal	20' to 30' tall / 15' to 20' across	Large green to grayish fan-shaped leaves that form a thick, rounded crown on a single trunk	Native to Texas; salt and drought tolerant; good as an accent in landscape; cold-hardy to single digits.

OUR FAVORITE FERNS

I love ferns! They actually make me feel cool when the thermometer tells me otherwise. (Maybe it is because most, but not all, grow in moist, shady areas.) The textures and colors of ferns are extremely diverse and make such wonderful companions to blooming or leafy color plants. Let me tell you about a few of my favorites:

Lace Fern- a beautiful fern with arching, lacy fronds and a clumping habit; 24" to 30" tall; deciduous or evergreen dependent of winter temps; A.M. sun or shade.

Japanese Painted Fern- a colorful fern with fronds that are a soft shade of metallic silver with hints of red and blue with a clumping habit; 12" to 18" tall; 2004 Plant of the Year; deciduous; A.M. sun or shade; moist but well-drained soil.

Foxtail Fern- a stunning fern with bright green, fluffy "fox-tail" like foliage and a clumping habit; up to 24" tall; outstanding accent or container plant; not a true fern; usually evergreen; part sun to full sun.

Rosy Maidenhair Fern- a charming little fern with colorful bronze to dark pink new growth and a clumping habit; 8" to 14" tall; usually evergreen; nice companion plant in garden or containers; A.M. sun or shade.

Shaggy Shield Fern- a hardy fern with coppery new growth maturing to deep glossy green with clumping habit; 18" to 24" tall; usually evergreen; A.M. sun or shade.

Autumn Fern-a wonderful and easy to grow fern with new growth bearing coppery-pink color aging to dark green with a clumping habit; 24" to 30" tall; stunning ground cover for shade; evergreen; moist bright shade conditions.

Holly Fern- a handsome fern with glossy rich green holly-like leaflets and a clumping habit; 2' to 3' tall; beautiful used in landscape; evergreen; A.M. sun to shade. Evergreen

Kimberly Queen Fern- a stunning and versatile fern looking similar to a Boston fern but much easier to grow; 2' to 3' tall; fabulous in containers or in the landscape; deciduous or evergreen dependent on winter temps; full sun to shade.

Macho Fern- a lush and large growing sword-type fern with beautiful green fronds that may reach 3' to 4' in length; up to 36" tall; excellent container specimen; winter hardy if somewhat protected; A.M. sun to shade.

Dixie Wood Fern- a sturdy fern bearing dark green fronds; 36' to 42' tall; outstanding in shade gardens or woodland areas; goes dormant when dry; usually deciduous; shade.

Australian Tree Fern- an interesting fern with bright green fronds on a slender trunk; can reach 15' if protected from freeze; beautiful tropical specimen; frost tender; part sun to shade.

Lemon Basil Butter Cookies

1 cup fresh lemon-basil leaves*
1 & 3/4 cups sugar, divided
1 pound butter, softened
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 large egg
6 cups all-purpose flour
Garnish: fresh basil sprigs

PROCESS basil and 3/4 cup of sugar in a food processor until blended.

BEAT butter at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy; gradually add remaining 1 cup of sugar, beating well. Add lemon juice and egg, beating until blended. Gradually add flour and basil mixture until blended.

SHAPE dough into 1 inch balls, and place 2 inches apart on lightly greased baking sheets. Flatten slightly with bottom of a glass dipped in sugar.

BAKE at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on wire racks. Garnish if desired. Makes 6 dozen cookies.

* Plain fresh basil leaves may be substituted for lemon-basil leaves.

Perfect Periwinkles

We often hear about the problems people have with periwinkles or rather "I just can't grow periwinkles." A disease that causes root rot and rotting of the lower stem just at and above the soil line is characteristic. To have success with periwinkles try the following tips:

- 1) A full sun location. Periwinkles ideally need 8 hours of full sun.
- 2) Good drainage is a must. Flower beds raised at least 6 inches with a loose soil mixture or containers are good choices.
- 3) Do not plant too early. We will not carry periwinkles until May 1 to allow the soil temperature to be adequately warm.
- 4) Do not plant too deep as this will increase potential to rot.
- 5) Mulch properly. Approximately 1 to 2 inches is adequate and definitely avoid mulching too heavily.
- 6) Avoid over-watering. Periwinkles like to stay relatively dry so watering only as needed is desirable.
- 7) Don't plant periwinkles in the same flower bed year after year.

So finding the right place in the garden sounds like the trick. Don't you have a spot that is just blazing hot from all day sun and perhaps the sprinklers don't quite reach the area? This could be your answer!

"The greatest gift of the garden is the restoration of the senses" Hanna Rion

What's on my Crepe Myrtles?

If you have Crepe Myrtles in your garden chances are you may have noticed a black sticky substance on the leaves at one time or another....and that time of year is rapidly approaching. The "black stuff" on the leaves is actually a fungus that adheres itself to the "residue" of APHIDS. So the "black stuff" is not the real culprit, only a symptom of the APHID problem. It will be very difficult to remove the "black stuff" from the leaves but to get rid of the aphids there are several things you can do:

1. Spray the underside of the leaves with a hard spray of water to break up their mating cycles.
2. Use insecticidal soap on a regular basis to control aphids.
3. Use All Seasons Spray Oil, Malathion or Orthene - following directions and using when the air is relatively still and no rain is in the forecast.
4. Use Systemic Care Products before the onset of aphid problem to control insects while it feeds your Crepe Myrtles.

Powdery mildew is the most common disease problem for Crepe Myrtles along the Gulf Coast. It may appear as though flour has dusted onto the tender, new growth. It can be controlled, culturally, by giving the plant at least 6 hours of full sun and planting in a location where the Crepe Myrtle receives good air circulation. (Right next to the house or in the corner of a fenced yard may not be ideal spots.) If it is too late for choosing the ideal spot then prune to open crepe myrtle to allow for better air movement.

Make Your Bougainvilleas Bloom!!

There is nothing more stunning than a beautiful bougainvillea in bloom! Yet there is nothing as frustrating than a big mass of green leaves with thorns when the dang thing "just won't bloom!" There are a few things that will help you get masses of color with these heat loving beauties!

- Plant Bougainvilleas in containers or hanging baskets. They like their roots to be crowded and this is much easier to achieve in pots. (To accomplish this in the ground you might try cutting back the roots.)
- Be sure the chosen container has good drainage. Proper drainage holes are a must and well-draining soil used in planting.
- Water only as needed. Bougainvilleas come from a hot climate and Summer is their favorite time of year. They actually like to wilt a bit before being watered.... so for me anyway, this makes them a very suitable container plant

for the harsh Summer months.

- Fertilize regularly with either Hibiscus Food or Bougainvillea food. These contain more potash than other fertilizers and this is very yummy to the bougainvilleas.
- Cut bougainvilleas back as necessary. At times your bougainvillea may develop long arms of green with blooms only on the ends or just get a bit out of control. This would be a good time to cut them back as we find that they bloom on new wood and you will get more blossoms the more you cut them back. Pruners are our friends!
- Protect from freezing weather. Though my pots have stayed out the last several years (but are in a fairly well protected garden) it is a good idea to cover them or take them into the garage during a freeze.

Bougainvilleas are ideal for the coming months as they will not suffer, like many other things will, from the neglect-while we are on vacation or just don't feel like watering again!

Container Garden Recipe



- 1 Butterfly Iris (1 gallon)
- 2 Yellow Cosmos (4 in.)
- 1 Splash Coleus (4 in.)
- 1 Buddy Purple Gomphrena (4 in.)
- 2 Purple Iresine (4 in.)

"A garden is a delight to the eye and a solace for the soul" -Sadi

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendar

Monday July 16th - Sunday July 29th.....Front Porch Sale

Our traditional Summer sale to make way for the new season’s goodies. Find great savings on many beautiful gifts and home accessories.

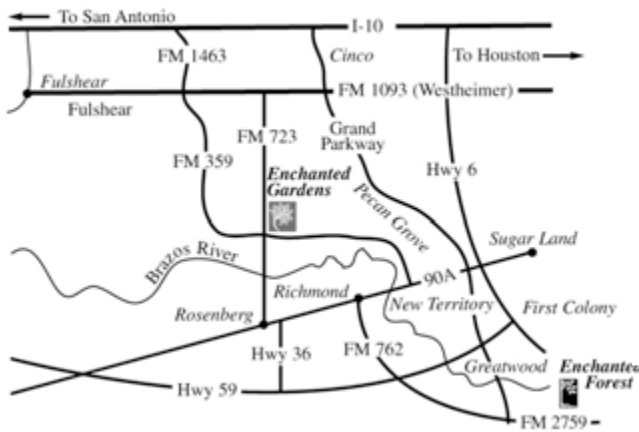
Friday August 3rd -.Sunday August 19th.....Truck Load Sale

You will find a fabulous selection of annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees all marked at great savings. This could be your find of the Summer!

Friday August 24th - Sunday September 16th..... “Chip off the Old Pot” Sale

Find a special selection of slightly worn or damaged merchandise at great savings. Items may include pottery, fountains, statuary, birdbaths, iron work, and more.

*Get on our mailing list to receive
valuable coupons!*



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Thanks for your interest.