



GREAT GARDENS GAZETTE

Spring 2004

Great Greetings!

"The garden reconciles human art and wild nature, hard work and deep pleasure, spiritual practice and the material world. It is a magical place because it is not divided. The many divisions and polarizations that terrorize a disenchanted world find peaceful accord among mossy rock, rough stone paths, and trimmed bushes."

-Thomas Moore, *The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life*, 1996

As Spring bursts into the scene it is having its normal effect of creating "Spring Fever." Everybody is looking forward to the cool mornings, warm and lingering evenings, and the new flush of color that comes into the landscape. Don't forget that we will start changing out your Spring color in mid-April. By now, you should have received your color order form and your planting schedule. Please make sure you turn in your order form to the office before the end of March so that we can process your order. If you didn't get your form in the mail, please contact the office so that we can send you one.

Also, this Spring means another of Elizabeth's designs will be featured in the *Better Homes and Gardens* May issue!!! The garden and patio areas of one of our long-time customers, Greg & Lil Smith, will be the subject of this article. Be sure to pick up a copy at the store soon!



Spring is time to come out of the castle and enjoy the gardens!!!!

Great Gardening for Kids

One of the great joys of being a child is digging in the dirt. Why not take their enthusiasm and love of learning and create a garden? Use this chance to nurture a respect and concern for nature. When creating a garden with a child, it is best to keep your child's garden fairly small. You don't want to overwhelm them or make it a chore. Let your child be a part of the planning and help in preparing the soil and planting the seeds or plants. Make sure you buy child size tools to fit their small hands. Choose bright and colorful plants that children find attractive. Even take your child to the nursery and let them help pick out the plants.

One type of garden that children find particularly delightful is a butterfly garden. All you have to do, to have a successful butterfly garden is to select nectar-producing plants with accessible flowers. Plants like Lantana and Purple Cone-flower produce nectar and attract butterflies continuously, even in hot weather. Verbena Homestead Purple will bloom in early spring through early summer and again in late fall. Choosing plants that have different blooming cycles will help you to have continuous color that attract the butterfly

community. The best plants for attracting butterflies include the one mentioned earlier as well as: Pentas, and Zinnia. Other good attractors are the Butterfly Bush, Abelia, Mealy Blue Sage, Turk's Cap, Sedum, Aster, Garden Phlox, Shasta Daisy and Salvia Greggii.

Another great idea for attracting butterflies is to provide them with a water source and a place to rest. One suggestion is to fill a birdbath with clean sand and soil, or clay, and level it off. Then, gently fill the birdbath with water until it just glistens on the surface of the sand. Butterflies love wet sand in a sunny spot. You will need to replenish the water often on hot days.



Great Plantings

Since Spring is the time of year most of us install new plants, here are a few tips on caring for your newly planted items. Just like people, plants need time to adjust to their new surroundings. Understanding their basic needs will help you to be successful with any new plants.

First consider the site you have in mind for the plant. Does it have the proper lighting? Is the soil and drainage appropriate for the plant? Does the area have proper air circulation?

After addressing the above issues, the next step is to care for the plant once it is in the ground. The most critical time is right after it is planted. You are moving it from one environment to another, which is very taxing on the plant. Make sure the plant

is watered-in well and watch it closely for signs of stress. Sun and windburn can be very stressful on new plants. Remember new plants have very limited roots, therefore it is very important that you keep the area around the plant consistently moist. Once the plant has established a root system, they will be more hardy and able to withstand some abuse.

Fertilizing your plant is also very important. It is essential for optimum growth to provide the plant with proper nutrients. Always make sure you give the plant fertilizer which is best suited for that particular type of plant. For example you would not fertilize a shrub with a fertilizer meant for annual flowering plants.

Great Garden Roses



North Texas is a wonderful place to grow roses. Unfortunately, our climate can make it a challenge to keep your roses healthy and free of pests and disease problems. Some common problems experienced with roses in this area are: Black Spot, Aphids, Rust, Spider Mites, Powdery Mildew and Thrips.

Three problems that are all caused by fungus are Black Spot, Rust and Powdery Mildew. Black Spot shows up as black spots on the leaves, Rust appears as brownish spots on the underside of the leaves, and Powdery Mildew is a white powdery substance on the leaves and

stems. Each of these conditions need to be treated with a fungicide.

Aphids leave a sticky, clear substance on the stem and leaves. Spider Mites make the leaves appear mottled with black specks or webbing. Thrips create a condition where the blossoms don't fully open or are brownish when they do open. Each of these pests need to be treated with the appropriate insecticide.

If you notice any of these conditions, please contact us so that we can provide the proper treatment.

Great Reminders

Don't forget, now is the time of year to mulch your beds especially with the warmer weather coming up. Mulch will reduce the amount of water you will need to use this Summer. Also consider our one-time-a-year Fire Ant treatment before they become a problem. And as always, Spring is a good time to fertilize your trees, shrubs and azaleas. Call us if you would like a bid on any of these important services.

Great Gardens Services

Yard Renovations
New Construction Landscape
Seasonal Flowers
Courtyard and Container Gardens
Retaining Walls
Flag Stone Patio Construction

Total Lawn Maintenance
Fertilization
Aeration
Weed and Pest Control
Irrigation Repair
Landscape Design

SPRING 2004

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