

NORTH HAVEN Gardens

Every Blooming Thing

JAN • FEB • 2010

www.nhg.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All NHG programs are complimentary and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Visit our Events Page at www.nhg.com for added programs.

~ JANUARY 2010 ~

10% Off Greenhouse Plants! Ready to replace holiday poinsettias with fresh houseplants? Bring your spent NHG poinsettias to us during the month of January and we'll give you **10% off 1 Greenhouse plant** for every one you bring in. Just be sure you purchased all your poinsettias on your Grow Card. For example, bring in 3 poinsettias, get 10% off 3 houseplants. January 1-31 only. *Not to be used with any other discount.*

SAT, JAN 9
1PM • **Must-haves for the Vegetable Garden** by Christine Hensley, TCNP. Now is the time to plant potatoes, horseradish, asparagus, rhubarb and onion sets. We'll show you how.

WED, JAN 13
12:15PM • **Daffodils: Pests & Diseases** by Mary Anne Moreland, American Daffodil Soc. Judge, Dallas County Master Gardener. Sponsored by the Texas Daffodil Society.

THURS, JAN 14
11AM - 1PM • **The Spring Vegetable Garden** by Leslie Finical Halleck, NHG GM, M.S. Horticulture. Starting a veggie garden this year? Did you now is the time to start planning? Leslie goes over what to plant when and how best to prepare your garden. Don't miss this popular program!

SAT, JAN 16
10AM - 2PM • **Hen Sale.** Purchase juvenile hens the 3rd Sat of each month.

SAT, JAN 16, 23 & 30
1PM • **Winter Vegetable Demo** by Christine Hensley, TCNP. Each Saturday at 1pm in the NHG Veggie Garden, Christine demonstrates planting potatoes, asparagus, horseradish & more. Check the website weekly to see what's being planted each week.

SUN, JAN 17
1PM • **Start Spring Vegetable Seeds** by Kato Kixon, NHG Staff, TCNP, NHG Staff. Don't miss your opportunity to start seeds for tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and more!

SUN, JAN 17
3PM • **Iris Hybrids** by Hugh Stout, Am. Iris Society. Discuss new varieties coming out of the west. Plus, this is a great place to ask questions about all things iris!

SAT, JAN 23
10:30AM • **Favorite Herb Books, Plant Catalogs & Resources.** Plus, top ten tips to successful herbs. Sponsored by the Herb Society of America.

SAT, JAN 23
11AM • **Camellias: Blooming, Evergreen Shrubs.**
by Alison Swann

SAT, JAN 23
2PM • **Spring Vegetables** by Christine Hensley, TCNP. Sponsored by Dallas Slow Food.

SUN, JAN 24
1PM • **Vegetables for Small Landscapes, Patios, Apartments & More** by Alison Swann, NHG Staff.

SUN, JAN 31
11AM - 4PM • **Texas Gardening 101**
This is a great class for those new to the area, beginner gardeners or experienced gardeners looking for a refresher course. \$65 / \$60 for Grow Card Members. Price includes our new book *Easy Gardens for North Texas* (Retail value \$29.99), class handouts on soil amendments, planting, maintenance and more all bound up in an easy to use binder. *Application in-store, over the phone or at www.nhg.com.*

~ FEBRUARY 2010 ~

SAT, FEB 6
1PM • **Pruning Roses** by Brandon Sorenson, NHG Rosarian.

THURS, FEB 11
11AM - NOON • **Favorite Perennials to Plant This Spring** by Christine Hensley, TCNP.

SAT, FEB 13
10:30AM • **Grow Ravishing Roses** by Vicki Agee, Dallas Rose Society President, Dallas County Master Gardener. Vicki goes over general rose care, favorite varieties for N. Texas and the best tips for rose success.

Don't forget **Valentine's Day gifts** such as rose plants, orchids, African violets and NHG Gift Cards. We've got wonderful gifts for your favorite valentine!

SAT, FEB 13
1PM • **Early Spring Color** by Kay Nelson, NHG Garden Coach, TCNP.

SAT, FEB 20
10:30AM • **Daylilies in N. Texas** by the Daylily Society. Don't miss this open forum to ask all your important questions for Daylily success.

SAT - SUN, FEB 20 & 21
LET'S GO ORGANIC!

Join us for a day of education on all things organic and Eco-Friendly. Meet vendors, local societies and more to find out all the best and most current information to help you go green. **See the complete weekend schedule at www.nhg.com.**

SATURDAY PROGRAMS
10AM - 2PM • **Hen Sale**

10AM - 10:45AM • **Spring Vegetables** by Christine Hensley, TCNP

11AM - NOON • **Raised Beds** by Patti Moreno, Garden Girl. Meet the Garden Girl during this special presentation on building, planting and maintaining raised bed gardens.

1PM - 2:15PM • **TBA:** See Program Details online.

3PM - 4PM • **Organic Products A-Z** by Natures Guide, Soil Menders and Living Earth

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

10:30AM - 11:30AM • **TBA:** See Program Details online.

12:30PM - 1:30PM • **Beneficial Insects** by NHG Staff.

2PM - 4PM • **Mad City Chickens Movie**

SAT, FEB 27
10:30AM • **Dill: 2010 HSA Herb of the Year** presented by Sara Holland, HSA Member. Starting herb seeds also discussed. Sponsored by the Herb Society of America.

SAT, FEB 27
3PM • **How to Grow Beautiful Bromeliads** by the Bromeliad Society.





Customer Spotlight: Alessandra Thor

Alessandra Thor, an NHG customer whose enthusiasm and gusto for growing veggies earned her a \$100 gift card from NHG, is a great inspiration to everyone just starting out, and even to those a bit more seasoned. We asked her about her 3' x 60' raised veggie garden and here's what she had to say.

NHG: What inspired you to start growing vegetables?

AT: I grew up in Italy eating all kind of vegetables. My grandmother had a vegetable garden and always had dirt in her hair and under her fingernails. I thought, "I'll never be like her, I'm a city girl!" Now I'm just like her! When I moved to the US 10 years ago I was surprised to find very few varieties of lettuce and other veggies at the grocery store. I decided to grow my own. I called around DFW asking which soil to use and only NHG was able to tell me correctly.

NHG: Where did you get the bulk of your information?

AT: Online, NHG classes and the Arboretum. I come to NHG and ask the staff lots of questions. I also visit the NHG veggie garden.

NHG: What did you grow this year?

Tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflowers, Brussel sprouts, kohlrabi, cucumbers, zucchini, spinach, lettuce, endive, Swiss chard, peas, watermelon, kale, pepper, eggplants, mustard greens, carrots, radishes, turnips, beets, beans & more. My favorite veggie to grow is eggplant.

NHG: Did you have any pest issues and how did you solve them?

AT: Yes, I did have some "monsters". I don't spray in my veggie garden. I just pick the monsters. It's ok if I have a few holes in my leaves. The biggest problem was pillbugs. But I sprayed beneficial nematodes and they went away.

NHG: Any advice for newbie veggie gardeners?

It's very easy to start a vegetable garden in Texas. A key to success is to have the correct soil and location. Also, take all the classes at NHG before starting.



Winter is the Time to Seed for Spring!

by Alison Swann, NHG Staff

We gardeners can do much more than gaze wistfully at the seed racks at NORTH HAVEN GARDENS in February. Now is time to plant and prepare! In late February, we can seed endive, lettuce and other leafy greens like mustard, collards and Swiss Chard directly into the garden we prepared in the fall and turned in the winter. Right now, you can also prepare your vegetable beds for carrots by cultivating them and adding compost. Continue starting tomatoes and peppers from seed indoors. Choose from our heirloom and hybrid varieties. Peat pots, extra-fine seed soil, expanding peat tabs, seed starting kits, grow lights and seed greenhouses make the task easier. Plant, then keep the seeds moist and warm til they sprout. Then move them beneath bright lights until they are ready to move outdoors after first frost. *Don't miss our seeds starting program January 17th at 1pm!*



Transplant Shrubs & Trees Now!

by Alison Swann, NHG Staff

Bet you didn't know that January is a terrific month to transplant trees and shrubs! Last August when you realized the Japanese Maple wasn't in a shady enough spot, you knew you had to wait to move it. Well now is the time! Planting and transplanting is best this month because plant growth is slowed with the cold weather. Plants can get established before the hot summer sets in. If you are moving a shrub or tree from one spot in your yard to another, be sure to cut the roots cleanly. Don't rip them. This will increase your chances of success. Try to preserve as much of the root ball in the soil as you can. Whether planting from a container or completely relocating, dig the hole at least two times the width of the plant or root ball and the same depth. Use organic **Carl Pool Root Activator** just after planting and once a month thereafter. *Looking for a new tree or shrub? We've got a great selection through winter!*

Spring Clean Up

by Christine Hensley, NHG Nursery

Coord., TCNP

Whether you are growing flowers, herbs or vegetables, your garden will benefit from a spring clean up! Rake leaves out of flower beds, but be careful of emerging shoots of fall planted bulbs or early sprouting perennials. Deciduous perennials can be cut back now and mulch should be reapplied in any spots in your beds that have gotten low – you should have at least 2" of mulch. As you cycle through plantings in your vegetable garden, mix extra compost into your planting beds. If you planted a cover crop last fall, now is the time to till it under. Prune fruit trees and roses, cut back your ornamental grasses, and apply corn gluten meal to your lawn. *Now is also a great time to visit NORTH HAVEN GARDENS! We can answer all your garden questions as we head into the busiest time in our gardens.*



Pruning Roses for Spring

by Brandon Sorenson, NHG Rosarian, TCNP

Around Valentine's Day is a good time to prune your roses. The right tools will make the project easier and faster! A pair of clean, sharp bypass or regular pruners, rose gauntlet gloves and isopropyl alcohol. For Hybrid Teas, English roses, Floribundas and Grandifloras, take the stalks down to about 18". Antiques and climbers just need a good sprucing up; anything smaller than pencil thickness can go, everything else will merely be for shaping purposes. If you've kept up with pruning your roses through the year, the center of the plant above the root ball should be open and clear, with a nice goblet shape to assist in form and ventilation. As you are making your cuts, dip pruners into isopropyl alcohol before each cut. Around the 18" mark, look for leaf buds, or leaflets that face toward the outside of the plant, clip just above that at a forty-five degree angle. Also, remove any leaves that the rose has discarded on the ground, and clip off/pull off any leaves that have black spot on them. Dispose of all stems and leaves. Never put rose cuttings in the composter. Finally, add at least 2" of mulch and an application of **NHG Organic Rose Food**. Need more rose help? Don't miss one of our **FREE** rose programs through the season.

Planting Potatoes

by Christine Hensley, TCNP

Potatoes are a great crop to grow in your early spring garden. There are a few steps that you will need to follow to ensure a successful harvest. First, buy firm, blemish free seed potatoes. Dust them with sulfur and plant. To plant, dig a shallow (4" or so) trench, drop in your dusted potatoes a few inches apart, and refill enough to cover the potatoes. In a few weeks sprouts will emerge. Let them grow and then mound 3-4 inches of soil around the stem. Add soil around the stem as they continue to grow. Your potatoes will form in the soil that you've mounded around the stem. When your potatoes start blooming, they're making potatoes! To harvest baby potatoes, gently dig just under the soil after blooming starts. To harvest larger potatoes, wait until the foliage dies down. *It's also time to plant your other root crops such as rhubarb, asparagus, onions, and horseradish. For a schedule of FREE education about planting veggies, plus more information on all these crops, see the Edibles page on our website, www.nhg.com.*

Easy Compost 1, 2, 3

by Kato Dixon, Garden Advisor, TCNP

Compost, a natural part of your eco-friendly lifestyle, benefits the soil of any landscape and can easily be made at home. You can either use one of the simple, ready-to-use compost bins from NORTH HAVEN GARDENS, or you can make your own. Choose a level, convenient area in your yard. Once your bin is ready, layer carbon rich (kitchen scraps and fallen leaves) and nitrogen materials (chicken manure and grass clippings) material in the bin. Turn regularly and you'll get a batch of compost in about 6-8 weeks. (TIP: Shredded materials compost quicker and easier). Boost your pile with EarthSafe Compost Activator to get things heated up. Moisten each layer after adding it to the pile and try to maintain the consistency of a damp sponge. Too wet or too dry materials will interfere with the "cooking process". We sell 2 styles of compost bins, kitchen compost pails, compost thermometers and sturdy tools for turning your pile. *For a full description of how to make your own compost and a list of compost-approved ingredients, visit the Garden Solutions page at www.nhg.com.*



JANUARY

- **Plant pre-chilled tulips and hyacinths** into the garden early in the month. Plant daffodils until mid-month. Force **Paperwhites** indoors
- **Transplant** existing trees and shrubs while their root systems are dormant.
- Add **mid-winter color**: pansies, viola and cyclamen.
- **Start seeds** of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, peppers and eggplant indoors mid-to later part of the month.
- **Prepare vegetable gardens** with organic matter.

FEBRUARY

- **Start seeds** of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, cucumber, squash, muskmelon, watermelon, herb and flower seeds indoors. Direct sow seeds of English and edible pod peas and lettuce outdoors.
- **Plant potatoes and onion sets**. Plant transplants of broccoli, cabbage, carrots, chard, spinach, lettuce, asparagus crowns, grape vines and berry shrubs.
- **Protect tender color**, perennials, flowering shrubs and young vegetable seedlings with frost cloth during severe cold spells. Water is critical immediately prior to hard freezes to lessen cold injury.
- **Prepare beds for spring** planting by working in compost or other organic materials.

Visit our website for more tips and information www.nhg.com

**Three great products
make composting easy!**



NORTH HAVEN Gardens

7700 Northaven Road, Dallas, TX 75230

214-363-5316 • www.nhg.com

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Early Spring Color

by Kay Nelson, TCNP,

NHG Garden Coach

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Spring is just around the corner! Now is the time when forsythia, quince, wisteria, paper whites and early blooming tulips start to work their magic. In the coming weeks, as you drive through your neighborhood, take note of what is blooming early. Chances are, we have it here at NORTH HAVEN GARDENS to plant in your own garden. If there is a plant you want to identify, take a picture and bring it in to us. We can help you figure it out! Right now, we've got a great selection of pansies, ornamental cabbage and kale, poppies and alyssum that will look wonderful in pots and the garden through spring. Early to mid February, be on the look out for lobelia, petunias, nemesia, calibrachoa, diascia and gerbera daisies. The earlier you get them in the ground, the better they will look through the season. Perennials such as creeping phlox, delphiniums, foxglove and Veronica will also be arriving around this time. After all new plantings, be sure to mulch, mulch, mulch and have some extra frost cloth on hand just in case we get a late winter freeze. But, no worries, much of the color you planted these past few months will do just fine with a bit of cover if it gets down to freezing. *Don't forget to feed all your seasonal color with a good organic fertilizer, such as **NHG Organic Pansy** or **Bedding Food**.*

Society Meetings at NORTH HAVEN GARDENS

Does your club need a meeting space?

NHG has a wonderful lecture room!

Call **214-363-6715** ext: 326 for details.

Begonia Society

214-363-6715 ext 340

Meets the fourth Sunday at 3pm

Bonsai Society

972-754-9883

Meets the first Saturday at 9:00am

Daylily Growers of Dallas

972-669-0291

Meets the third Saturday at 10am

Greenbee Organic and Sustainable Club

214-363-6715 ext. 326

Meets first Saturday at 1pm

Herb Society of America

Meets the fourth Saturday at 10am

Texas Daffodil Society

972-333-4337

Meets the second Tuesday October-February

Iris Society

Meets the third Sunday at 3pm

Southwestern Fern Society

214-691-4364

Meets the second Sunday at 3pm

Greater North Texas Orchid Society

214-691-4364

Meets the first Sunday at 3pm

