



Every Blooming Thing

July - August 2015



Clockwise from left: 'Grateful Red,' 'Invitation,' 'Devil's Riot,' 'Purr,' and 'Tanzanian Tangerine.' Photos courtesy Schreiner Iris Gardens

Sneak Peek!

Our 2015 Bearded Iris Collection arrives this August

We can't say enough good things about bearded irises, *Iris germanica* and numerous cultivars. They're hardy, long-lived perennials that we affectionately refer to as 'jewels of the perennial garden.' Each August, NHG brings in a collector's selection of bearded iris rhizomes (the fleshy, root-like terrestrial stem from which the plants grow) in time for late summer/early fall planting. Here are quick highlights from the more than 30 great varieties due to arrive in mid-August: **'Grateful Red'** is a well-branched tall bearded iris with stems bearing up to eight buds each. Its ruddy-red color and deeply ruffled blooms make it a standout in the garden. **'Rave On'** is a striking tangerine-orange tall bearded variety with subtle melon-pink hues. Its vibrantly colored blooms are produced on well-branched stems with 8-9 buds per stem. **'Invitation'** is another tall bearded iris with pristine white standards and peach-apricot falls. Once established, it has a strong tendency to re-bloom in fall.

While these highlights all feature selections

in the ever-popular red/orange/peach spectrum, our 2015 collection includes varieties in just about every color of the rainbow, with tall, intermediate and dwarf varieties as well as some that are fragrant and re-bloom. Thanks to all who participated in our April/May photo contest featuring the beauty of bearded irises in their home gardens. We hope their images inspire you to plant some of your own!

Visit our Pinterest Iris board to see all the 2015 varieties!

Scan Here



Bearded Irises POP UP Class
Saturday, August 22, 10-10:30am
 Get planting instructions and long term care of these easy-to-grow, drought tolerant flowers.



Our winning customer entries from our April photo contest: 'Beautiful Vision in front of a Liberty Holly' by Linda White. 'Peachy purple bearded iris, orange beard,' by Nicole Jones. 'Lavender iris' by Hillary Keys.



Gardening Success: The Water-Wise Garden of Paula Spletter

By Cody Hoya, NHG General Manager



Lush shade plantings like Farfugium japonicum 'Gigantea' use far less water than lawns.

Certified Texas Master Gardener Paula Spletter has crafted a lush, eclectic garden in north Texas that's as thrifty with water as it is generous with beauty and interest. Not all water-wise gardens are sparse xeriscapes, and they don't all rely solely on gravel and cactus. "It was created out of necessity when the trees we planted grew so large that they shaded the grass, making it difficult to grow" says Paula. "I removed the remaining plantings and started with a clean slate. Mapping out flagstone paths was the first item of business,

and after that, the gardens fell into place." As a self-described 'eclectic gardener,' the challenge of finding different plants to suit the evolving garden was a welcome one. "There were seven separate sections, and I patiently observed each one. Other than two having similar sun exposure and access to irrigation, they were all different." By carefully selecting perennials and groundcovers best suited to each space, the established plants are less stressed and require less irrigation and care. Plantings are layered to provide subtle variations in hue and texture, with various plants providing focal interest throughout each season. Paula gained more than just beautiful space and good exercise: she found that gardening grew relationships, too. "I took my time completing each section. My neighbors would come by just to see which section I was working on and to cheer me on to completion. Who knew I would get to know so many of my neighbors! It was a garden social every day." With raised beds for vegetables and an impressive collection of specimen succulent plants in a variety of containers, the garden is full of colors, textures, flavors and fragrance. With the addition of four rain barrels, Paula estimates she's cut her landscape water needs in half. "The garden is ever-changing, and I enjoy that. It's an ongoing labor of love."

How I Created My Water-Wise Landscape with Paula Spletter

**Winner of the 2012 Dallas
Water-Wise Landscape Tour
Saturday, August 1st, 11-Noon**

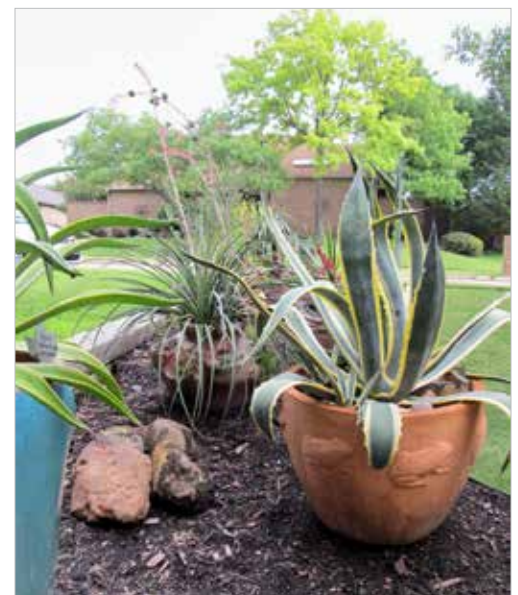
Get a firsthand account of how a seasoned Master Gardener made her residential garden drought tolerant and beautiful. FREE. Plant tour to follow.



Paula's house when it was first purchased.



The entire landscape is filled with thriving plants and places to observe and enjoy.



Though much of the front yard is in the shade of trees Paula planted, these agaves and yuccas enjoy full sun.

Visit NHG.com for calendar event details



July-August 2015 Events

Now is the Time



Plant Tomato Transplants
by mid-July for fall harvest



Keep **Hummingbird** feeders and birdbaths clean and filled to support these visitors in the heat.



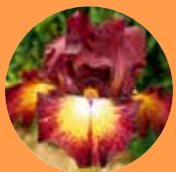
Fertilize & Prune Roses in mid-August to encourage a fall flush of blooms.



Seed Wildflowers in August! Plan and prep your space



Have your **Irrigation System** audited before your summer vacation. Dallas Water Utilities is conducting **FREE** automatic irrigation system check-ups.



Plant Bearded Iris from our new collection in mid-August.

Plant, imagine & create! Indoor Gardening Workshops for Kids

New series for the month of August guided by Education & Outreach Coordinator Rusty E. Allen, TCNP
Wednesdays from 2-3:30pm
Enjoy light refreshments in our air-conditioned classroom

Cool Succulent Fun August 5th

Everyone loves the shapes, forms and colors of succulents! Create a small naturalistic grouping of your choice. Materials include an 8" terra cotta pot, and your choice of up to eight 2" plants for your creation. Embellish with natural branches, mosses and stones to produce a bit of nature, ideal for a windowsill or sunny desktop.



Texas Wildflower Seed Balls August 26th

Seed balls are an easy, effective way to start a native wildflower garden to bring butterflies and birds to your garden. First we'll read *The Legend of the Bluebonnet*, by Tomie dePaola. Next we'll create a wildflower-inspired art project and blend clay and soil to make 5 seed balls to take home along with a copy of the book.



Fairy & Miniature Gardens August 12th

Create your own world in miniature. All materials are included to create the beginnings of your own tiny garden: 10" container, potting soil, moss, a selection of stones and your choice of five 2" terrarium plants. Afterward, stroll our collection of accessories to personalize your creation.



My First Herb Pot August 19th

A hands-on class to create a fragrant and tasty herb container garden you can use for cooking. Materials include 5 herbs from our extensive collection, plus container and soil.



Scan to register online

\$25 per workshop

Includes one set of materials. Space is limited to 25 gardeners ages 5-10 for each workshop. Parent or guardian is free to attend. Please register by noon on the Monday before the workshop of your choice.



Urban Chicken Ranching

Summer Chicken Care: On the 4th Saturday of each month, John & Emily Ramos will be here for classes from 3-4pm & pullet sales from 4-5pm. **Upcoming dates:** Saturday, July 25 & Saturday, August 22. Pullets subject to availability.

NORTH HAVEN Gardens



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4th OFF
for the
4th SALE



**Monday, June 29th –
Sunday, July 5th**

We celebrate Independence Day
each year with a week-long sale!

25% off ALL PLANTS:
annuals, perennials,
shrubs & trees!

In-stock plant material only.
While supplies last. Get here
early & grab your favorites!

We announce planting
guidelines & new arrivals
regularly on social media.
Connect with us!



Create Your Own Butterfly Retreat

By Robyn Morris, TCNP, Assistant Manager

Native Texas wildflowers support butterflies and other important pollinating insects. The best time to plant their seed is in August, so here are some tips for starting your own patch: **Choose a spot that has full sun** (at least six hours). **Prepare your site by removing any existing grass or vegetation and raking the soil clean.** It's not necessary to amend the soil; the key is seed-to-soil contact.

Make sure you select wildflower species native to your area. NHG carries both mixes and single-species packs from which you can select. Annual types will germinate through fall and winter, bloom beautifully in spring, and then set seed in late summer. Left undisturbed, they'll set the stage for next year's show. More perennial types can last for many years and can be planted in spring as well as fall. Good choices to try are coneflower (*Echinacea*) and black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*).

Lightly scatter seeds over the soil by hand. If the seeds are very small, mixing them with a lightweight carrier such as coarse sand can help distribute them evenly. Try a 'crossword'

pattern: sweep across, then once more up and down until the entire area is uniformly covered. Afterward, simply walk over the site to gently push the seeds into contact with the soil—there's no need to bury them. You can also turn a light leaf rake over and carefully draw it across the area.

Unless you're making large areas of wildflowers and depending on rainfall, you'll need to **water your seeds carefully** with a gentle sprinkle. Keep the soil surface from drying out while seeds are sprouting; once they're about 1" high you can gradually reduce watering. Wildflowers require minimal maintenance.

Be on the lookout for invasive weeds and grasses, such as Bermuda, that can smother your planting. Remember to allow the flowers to go to seed and let the seeds ripen and dry before you mow or remove any spent plants. This way, your wildflowers will spread and return each year on their own. Try a wildflower patch this year; you'll be so glad you did!



An American lady butterfly sips nectar from a wild fleabane (Erigeron). Coneflower (Echinacea), which is included in many wildflower seed mixes, attracts honeybees and other pollinators.