

# Every Blooming Thing



Celebrating  
**51**  
Years of Service

January-February 2003

North Haven Gardens Newsletter



## January

**Plant** pre-chilled tulips and hyacinths into the garden in January, and save a few for planting pots to enjoy inside.

**Plant** fruit trees — cherry, peach, plum, pear, apple, apricot and persimmon — berry vines, shrubs and ornamental trees. Transplant existing trees and shrubs while their root systems are dormant.

**In February**, plant potatoes and onion sets. Plant grapes, berries, and asparagus for many years of harvest.

*Don't forget to water existing vegetable plants during the winter months, and mulch for cold weather protection.*

**Protect** tender perennials or flowering shrubs 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. Add mid-winter color with pansies and cyclamen.

**Fertilize** pansies and other winter color annuals. Cut back on fertilizing indoor plants.

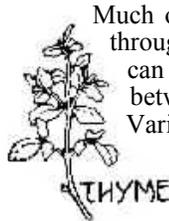
**Prune** rose bushes (not the *climbers*) after last freeze (about mid-February). *Attend our winter rose seminars.*

**Winter is a great time to make changes to your landscape.** Our Metroplex soil never freezes. Plants grow roots all winter. North Haven Gardens is known for the best selection of quality trees and shrubs and also offers a planting service. Stop by and let our expert sales staff help you with the right selections for your landscape.

## Spice Up Your Winter Gardens *by Judy Fender*

Evergreen herbs offer a limitless palette for the garden because of their different sizes, textures, colors, and shapes. They add beauty and interest and are also useful. Herbs easily enhance borders, paths, vegetable and rose gardens, and containers. They like good drainage, are usually drought-tolerant and perform well in raised beds.

Ornamental herbs such as winter hardy green Santolina add a unique texture and vivid chartreuse color to a garden. (Santolina cuttings can be hung in closets to repel moths.) The scent is exciting. The gray variety of santolina is sometimes called 'Lavender Cotton.' Traditional knot gardens use upright-growing herbs with woody stems that can withstand light pruning. Germander, lavender, hyssop, santolina, and upright varieties of thyme are frequently used in the border design plantings.



Much of the enjoyment from herbs is in their textures and scents. Pathways through the garden are opportunities to touch and smell. Hard lines of a path can be easily softened with herbs that tumble onto the path or are planted between stepping stones. Evergreen thymes such as 'French,' 'Lemon Variegated,' 'Silver Lemon,' 'Lime,' 'Silver,' and 'English' thymes add interest and fragrance to the winter garden path. The scent of lavender is always refreshing. Use 'Provence,' 'Pink Hidcote,' and 'Dutch' lavenders for year-round interest. Cut blooms for potpourri.

When most of the garden is in winter's dormancy, 'Purple' sage and 'Silver Leaf' sage add interesting color and texture. 'Country Cream' marjoram and 'Libbie's' oregano have rounded leaves and tumbling growth habit that attract attention spilling over the edge of a container. For winter, mix them with pansies and alyssum in containers on the patio or hanging baskets to cheer the winter days.

## Streptocarpus, An Exotic Flowering House Plant *by Don Miller*

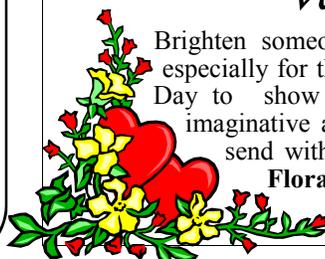
The Streptocarpus is native to the Cape of South Africa. Plant breeders have taken these native species and by hybridizing created many beautiful and easy to grow new varieties.

The light green leaves are long and narrow and form a rosette just above the soil surface. The trumpet-shaped flowers come in blue, white, purple, pink, red, and many will have contrasting colors in the throat or stripes. The flowers hang on slender stems above the foliage.



The plants require bright light but not hot sun. They also prefer to get slightly dry between waterings. To increase flowering, use a good African Violet or House plant fertilizer. Visit our Greenhouse to see our excellent selection of these beautiful, easy-to-grow flowering house plants.

## Valentine's Day is Every Day!



Brighten someone's day with fresh flowers created in an arrangement especially for that special person. You don't have to wait for Valentine's Day to show your appreciation. Our floral designers are extremely imaginative and can design something unique so that the wishes you send with a floral gift will always be remembered. **Contact our Floral Designers at 214-691-6751** to create a unique floral gift for the people who are special in your life.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## WINTER STORE HOURS

Monday through Saturday — 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Sundays — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Saturday, January 11 — 1:30 p.m.**

**“Fruit Trees” - Tom Wilten**

*Presented by the First Men’s Garden Club of Dallas*

**Saturday, January 18 — 1:30 p.m.**

**“Accessorizing the Winter Garden”**

**Laurel Schellinger, Feng Shui Expert/Consultant**

**Sunday, January 19 — 1:30 p.m.**

**“Birding in Dallas” - Connie Sandlin**

**Dallas County Audubon Society**

**Saturday, January 25 — 1:30 p.m.**

**“Grapes & Berries” - Chuck Goeke, NHG**



## WINTER ROSE SEMINARS

*Presented by the Dallas Rose Society and Collin County Rose Society*

**Sunday, January 26 - 1:30 p.m. -3:00 p.m.**

**“Roses in the Dallas Area”**

**Sunday, February 2 - 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**“The Care of Roses”**

**Sunday, February 9 - 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**“Rose Questions & Pruning Workshop”**

Also:

**Saturday, February 8 - 1:30 p.m.**

**“Roses 101” - Field Roebuck, Rosarian, Author**

*Presented by the First Men’s Garden Club of Dallas*

## ORGANIC WEEKEND

**Saturday and Sunday, February 1 - 2**

Meet Organic Gardeners, Vendors, and learn about products, composting, and mulches.

**Saturday, February 1 - 1:30 p.m.**

**“Let’s Go Organic!” with Carolyn Oldham, NHG**



**Reminder: Valentine’s Day is Friday, February 14th!**

## GREENHOUSE OPEN HOUSE

Lectures and Garden Club information.

**Saturday, February 15 - 1:30 p.m.**

**“Begonias” - Don Miller, NHG**



**Sunday, February 16**

**Meet our Local Garden Clubs 1 - 4 p.m.**

**Mini- Lectures, Information, Refreshments.**

**‘Wednesday at Noon’ with Judy Fender**

*Enjoy lunch and a garden lecture.*

*Reservations required; luncheon charge.*

*Limited seating; registration form in the store and on our website: [www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com)*

**Wednesday, January 15 - 12 Noon to 2 p.m.**

**“Planning Your Butterfly Garden for Spring”**

**Wednesday, February 19 - 12 noon to 2 p.m.**

**“Planning a Water-Conserving Garden”**

## Organic Weekend - February 1 and 2

Do you want to learn more about “organic” gardening? Come meet our organic gardeners and manufacturers. Ask questions, pick up information to help you with organic lawn and garden care this year. Talk with the experts who can answer your questions and help you with your problems. Get a jump on the gardening season with the information you will learn this weekend! Start planning your spring and summer gardens now!

## Greenhouse Open House - February 15 and 16



Visit our tropical greenhouse and meet representatives (on Sunday) from 20 local garden clubs that meet at North Haven Gardens and in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Garden clubs can help you become more successful in your own garden. We will have lectures and information. Don’t miss this weekend!

## Birds of the Metroplex

Connie Sandlin of the Dallas County Audubon Society will introduce the birds of the Metroplex to us with pictures and sounds. Learn to identify the visitors to your feeders and yard. Goldfinches are here, and other visitors you might have seen are yellow-rumped warblers, kinglets, common yellow throats, and many others! Enjoy Connie’s lecture on **January 19th at 1:30 p.m.** Remember to visit our Bird Department for safflower and other seeds, feeders, and books.



## Rose Seminars for the Novice

Dallas Rose Society and Collin County Rose Society have created a 3-week informational study program (on Sunday afternoons) for those wanting to learn more about roses in the landscape and garden. Consulting Rosarians and expert rose growers Claude Graves, Turner Hasty, John Allen, and Bob McLaughlin will take you through rose selection, rose care, bed prep, maintenance, and pruning so that when rose season begins, you will be armed with excellent knowledge to make your rose garden grow beautifully. *New rose selections arrive at NHG on March 1st! Rose Weekend is March 8-9.*



## 3rd Annual Bird House Competition

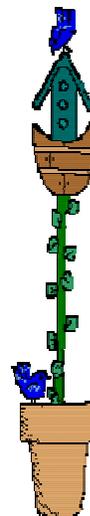
Get those hammers, saws, wood, and paint brushes ready to create birdhouse masterpieces for our **February 22-23 birdhouse competition**. Delighted and amazed nursery visitors will vote for their ‘People’s Choice’ during the display period. Let’s see what you come up with this year!

The categories for adults are (1) Bird-specific (built for a specific type of bird), and (2) decorative/creative interpretations (not built to spec and/or habitable). Category (3) is for Student entries. All birdhouses will be judged using a point system in several different areas such as originality, design specifications, execution, and decoration — to name a few. Prizes will be awarded in each category. A “People’s Choice” award will be voted by the visitors. Birdhouses must be homemade by the entrant. [Guidelines and entry form are on our website [www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com) and in the store.]

*Eligibility: Bird houses will be accepted Friday, February 14, until Friday noon, February 21. Judging will take place Friday, February 21. All entries must be picked up by Saturday, March 1st.*

## 3rd Annual North Haven Gardens’ BIRDHOUSE COMPETITION

**Entries Displayed on February 22-23**  
Winner of People’s Choice announced on Monday, February 24th.  
Enter your own creation! Come for the fun!



## Shrubs for Shade Gardens

Looking for a bit of interest for the shady areas of your landscape? **Leatherleaf mahonia** has broad, holly-like blue-green foliage. This evergreen shrub produces terminal clusters of fragrant yellow blooms in late spring, which then form stunning black, grape-like fruit clusters that the birds love during winter months.

'**Spring Bouquet**' **Viburnum tinus 'compactum'** is an evergreen shrub with small, dark green foliage, growing 4-6' high and wide. Early spring brings pinkish-white flowers. Spring Bouquet makes a good hedge, too.

The ideal low maintenance choice for large scale ground cover and embankment plantings or low hedges is the '**Emerald Spreader**' **Japanese yew**. This low-growing shrub (30 inches high to 8-10 feet wide) retains dark green foliage color in the coldest of winters, and for winter interest, red berries will attract birds. Emerald Spreader (a moderate- to slow-growing, flat-topped shrub) will grow in full to partial sun.

## Plant Fruit Trees Now

Fruit trees grown in our area require well-drained and not too rich soil, and as much sun as possible. Plum trees are free of serious problems and bear fruit in 3-4 years. Try the Methley variety. Peach trees do well in the Metroplex also. Prune them to an open form for best production. Dwarf peach trees are available and make great landscape plants. Pears are among the best fruits for our area. Most are resistant to fire blight. Asian pears are crispy, juicy fruit. Growing figs as bushes helps to protect them in our area. Brown Turkey figs and Celeste are the hardiest. Texas Everbearing fig is a variety that will bear fruit from new growth.

## Dallas Soils Are Better Than You Think! by Carolyn Oldham

At a recent staff meeting, Dr. John Sloan, Assistant Professor of Soil Science at Texas A&M, provided useful information about our Dallas soils. Our soils are actually quite fertile. However, soil tests will indicate excessive levels of phosphorus which can cause plants to grow poorly and even die. It also reduces the plant's ability to take up iron, zinc, magnesium and sulfur which makes the leaves look yellow with green veins. Ever noticed this in your landscape?

So what's a Dallas gardener to do? Dr. Sloan says the addition of lots of organic matter is the way to go. Topdressing your lawn and beds with a quality compost such as Living Earth, Back To Earth or Hu-More is a great first step. Second, use low analysis organic fertilizers such as Texas Tee 6-2-4, Gardenville 7-2-2, NHG 6-3-0, Greensense 6-2-4 or Cottonseed Meal 6-1-1. These products will provide the levels of slow-release nitrogen that your plants need but not add excessive soluble phosphorus to your soil. This fertilizer application can be done as early as February 1st, followed by June 1st, then October 1st.

According to Dr. Sloan, the best way to resolve the iron deficiency is by foliar feeding. Bonide Liquid Iron or Carl Pool Iron Chelate work well when sprayed on the foliage and the soil.

So, learn to love your Dallas soil and pamper it with compost and organic fertilizers.



## New Soil Testing Opportunity

Texas A&M's exciting EarthKind\* Environmental Landscape Management Program can now offer you an A&M soil test at a reduced price plus a personalized 15-minute consultation with an A&M representative who will, in a clear and easy-to-understand manner, explain your soil test results, answer your soil-related questions, and make specific recommendations on which fertilizer, soil amendments and mulch are best for your landscape. This is the first time such consultations have ever been offered in Texas. North Haven Gardens is working with Texas A&M to help you with the soil testing process during this program.

The personalized advice will help you to save money, conserve water and protect water quality, and promote greater success with plants in your own home landscape. All of this is only \$8 during this program participation time!

The number of participants is limited. Stop by North Haven Gardens for information on how to collect the sample and to reserve your place in this new EarthKind\* program. Complete the program and survey through North Haven Gardens, and you will receive a 10% discount coupon also. You will want to act quickly because the last date to submit soil samples through this special program is January 29th.

Questions? Speak with NHG's David Reznik regarding this cooperative program with Texas A&M.



**North Haven Gardens**  
**7700 Northaven Road**  
**Dallas, TX 75230**  
**(214) 363-54316**  
 Address Correction  
 Requested



Visit: [www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com)

Lectures, Plant Lists & Information  
 'Wednesday at Noon' Information  
 Birdhouse Competition - Entry Forms



Gift Ideas, Books  
 Garden Tools  
 Gift Certificates

## **SOCIETY MEETINGS**

AT NORTH HAVEN GARDENS

Call the club to confirm the meeting —  
 in event of a schedule change.

**Begonia Society** 214-363-5316  
 Meets the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

**Bonsai Society** 972-392-1430  
 Meets the first Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

**Bromeliad Society**  
 Meets the fourth Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

**Daffodil Society** 214-526-5379  
 Meets the last Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

**Dallas Organic Garden Club**  
 972-235-4001  
 Meets fourth Thursday at 6:45 p.m.

**Dallas Rose Society** 972-234-5184  
 Meets the fourth Friday at 6:30 p.m.

**Daylily Growers of Dallas**  
 972-684-4760  
 Meets the third Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

**First Men's Garden Club of Dallas**  
 972-907-9911  
 Meets the third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

**Hosta Society** 214-363-6715 x333  
 Call to confirm meeting date and time.

**Southwestern Fern Society**  
 972-241-6480  
 Meets the second Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

## *The Gardener's Gift Corner*

The holidays are over and the new year is here! It's time to consider new plants for indoor winter gardens. Visit our Greenhouse and browse the many varieties of plants to brighten your home. Low-light plants that are successful inside are Aglaonema, Spathiphyllum, Peace lily, Dracaena, and Croton. Select ferns from the many varieties available such as Bird's Nest, Lemon Button, Cobra, Maidenhair, Cypress, Boston, Dallas, Staghorn, and many others. Orchids are a unique plant to grow, and our Greenhouse selections are amazing. In the gift shop, our silk orchid plants in planters are so real, you have to touch them to be certain they aren't! These make wonderful gifts. The Carruth 'garden critter' accessories are whimsical and just plain irresistible, making wonderful gifts for garden friends...or tucking them into your own garden room.

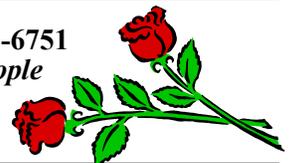
Our container collections are varied and ever-changing. Brighten a patio or front entryway with an attractive container planted with winter-blooming plants such as cyclamen, primrose, or pansies. The new vases for cut flowers are colorful and intricately designed — so much so, that it will be difficult to take your eyes off them! Summer-blooming bulbs will be arriving soon — a basket of bulbs, gloves, bulb food, and a trowel makes a great "chase-the-winter-blahs-away" gift for any gardening enthusiast. Come make your garden selections from the many bulbs we stock!

An outstanding collection of wrought iron crosses and artifacts in many beautiful designs creates a special effect to patio décor. We also have beautiful trellises for your climbing plants to add 'garden interest' in wood, metal and wrought iron.

If you cannot decide, a North Haven gift certificate is always a welcome gift for any gardener during the coming year!



Contact our Floral Designers at 214-691-6751  
 to create a unique floral gift for the people  
 who are special in your life.

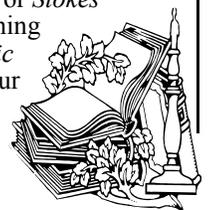


Check our ad each Friday  
 in the Dallas Morning News'  
 Living / House & Garden  
 section for lectures,  
 events, and sales.



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*The Book Corner ...* Having a good bird book on hand in the winter is essential. Pick up a copy of *Birds of Texas*, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, or *Stokes' Field Guide to Birds* to help identify your bird visitors. Organic gardening is the way to grow — *Texas Organic Vegetable Gardening*, the *Organic Rose Garden*, or *Growing Roses Organically* are great additions for your personal library. Which trees are best for your landscape? Pick up a copy of Howard Garrett's *Texas Trees* or the Wasowskis' *Native Texas Trees*. *Native Texas Plants* (Wasowski) is back in print again and we have it, too! Come peruse the many other new titles we carry!



Visit us on the Web at [www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com)