

# Every Blooming Thing



Celebrating  
**52**  
Years of Service

January-February 2004

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.

## 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 specific landscape and garden needs.

## Productive North Texas Fruits and Nuts

by Chuck Goecke, Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional

Our long growing season and hot summers make fruit growing especially rewarding here in North Texas. Fruit and nut trees, berry bushes, and grape vines can be used as ornamentals in our yards with the added bonus of their harvest. A couple of cultivation notes are common to all these plants.

They all prefer full sun, good drainage, annual fertilizing, and adequate water in hot weather. Pear, persimmon, and pomegranate trees are easy care because they generally need no spraying. Plums, apricots, and peaches occasionally get borers when they are under stress. Apples and cherry trees are great fruit trees, but they need a regular spray program. North Haven Gardens has both organic and conventional sprays that will keep your fruit orchard thriving and productive. *[Note: Be certain when selecting pesticides for use on fruit trees that you check the labels carefully and also consult with a knowledgeable person as to the residual effect of various sprays and systemics that might be used on various types of fruit-bearing plants. Not all sprays are suitable for all fruit-bearing trees. When in doubt, always ask. Call the '800' number on the product.]*



Pears and plums are relatively quick to start bearing fruit; so they are great for beginners. North Haven Gardens carries the best recommended varieties for our area by the A&M Extensions Service. Our complete fruit and nut list can be downloaded from our website, [www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com).

## Houseplant Care in Winter

by Tamara Pickard

Just as we slow down during those darker winter months, our houseplants also take a rest to get ready for spring. In response to the shorter indoor 'growing' season, watering and fertilizing must be adjusted to meet cold weather needs.

When watering indoor plants in winter, it is best to do the "touch test." If the soil is dry about an inch deep, it is time to water. If allowed to stay too moist, the roots will not receive the oxygen they need for good growth. Let some water run out of the bottom of the pot and always empty saucers of excess water so roots won't suffocate. [North Haven Gardens carries soil moisture testers for those who tend to over water!]

Fertilizer requirements also decrease in winter requiring a reduction in how often and how much should be applied. Cut fertilizer amounts by about half for flowering plants and three fourths for foliage plants. Slow-release fertilizers, such as **Osmocote 19-13-6**, **Schultz Multicote 18-6-12**, and **Carl Pool 13-13-13 Controlled Release** work very well in winter because the plants take up nutrients just as they need them.

Following these simple tips will lead to lovely houseplants to brighten dreary winter months.



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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Winter Store Hours Change

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

**Saturday, January 10 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Fruit Trees, Berries & Grapes'** - Chuck Goecke,  
Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional

**Saturday, January 17 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Soil Preparation'** - John Wall & Tom Wilten  
*presented by the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas*

**Sunday, January 18 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Great Ideas with Evergreen Shrubs'** - Jeff Payne

**Saturday, January 24 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Birds in Your Backyard!'**

Connie Sandlin, Audubon Society

**Saturday, January 31 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Have a Great Rose Garden'** - Bob McLaughlin,  
Texas Certified Nurseryman

### ORGANIC WEEKEND!

**Saturday, February 7 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Organic Gardening & Composting'**  
Mike Norten, Master Composter and  
Cable TV's 'The Garden Guy' and

**Sunday, February 8 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Landscaping Naturally'** Carol Feldman,  
Landscape Designer/Consultant

**Saturday, February 14 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Vegetable Gardening in Texas'** - Steve Kimball  
*presented by the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas*

**Saturday, February 21 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Four Steps to Great Roses'**  
Lynn Martin, Consulting Rosarian

### GREENHOUSE OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, February 22 - 1 to 4 p.m.**  
*Meet local clubs and learn what's new.*

**Sunday, February 22 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Perennial Gardens in Texas'** - Julie Ryan  
Well-known garden author Julie Ryan  
will autograph her book after the lecture.

**Sunday, February 22 - 3:00 p.m.**  
**'Great Plants from the Greenhouse'**  
Caryn Maqueira

**Saturday, February 28 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**'Caring for Japanese Maples'** - Chuck Goecke  
Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional

**'Wednesday at Noon' - 12 noon to 2 p.m.**  
**Luncheon & Lecture with Judy Fender**

**January 21: 'Creating a Backyard Habitat'**  
**February 18: 'Tufa and Other Fun Containers'**  
*Reservations are Required; Limited Seating. Luncheon/lecture  
Charge \$15, includes tax. Reservation Form (includes menu  
selections) is on the website and in the store.*

## Organic Weekend at North Haven Gardens!

Our annual pre-season **Organic Weekend**, **February 7 and 8**, will be full of garden information! Organic garden clubs, the Audubon Society, and Master Gardeners will be present along with vendors who will help you with information and questions. February is the time to get ready for spring planting and garden preparations! **Mike Norten**, **'The Garden Guy'** (on local cable TV), will share **'Organic Gardening and Composting'** tips and ideas; and landscape consultant **Carol Feldman** will show us how to do our **'Landscaping Naturally.'** Spend the weekend; leave with lots of ideas for the new gardening year. Come mingle and learn! Check our website for more details ([www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com)). See *Calendar for times/dates.*

## Greenhouse Open House

**Sunday, February 22, from 1 to 4 p.m.**, is the time to spend at North Haven Gardens. Meet our local clubs and learn what they have to share with you as a gardener (both indoor plants and outside)! Meet author **Julie Ryan** (*Perennial Gardens for Texas*) at 1:30 p.m. when she lectures, providing information that will help you plan your gardens for 2004 so they will grow beautifully and successfully! Julie will autograph her book following the lecture. Explore garden club opportunities with us and grow!!

## Winter Tree and Shrub Planting

by Chuck Goecke, Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional

Late fall and winter is the ideal time to plant most types of trees and shrubs. The only exceptions are plants that are marginally hardy, such as those rated only to zones 7b and 8a. Plant at this time to provide a nice long cool establishment period before the hot summer weather arrives. Deciduous plants that lose their leaves only need infrequent watering in the winter, if it does not rain, perhaps once every two weeks. Evergreen trees and shrubs continue to transpire, thus needing somewhat more water. Once or twice a week should be enough. Larger sizes (15 gallon and up) may need even less. Root growth continues throughout the winter, so apply **Superthrive** or **Hi-Yield** or **Earth Safe Root Stimulator** monthly.

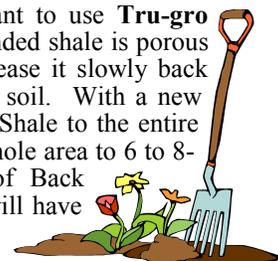
North Haven Gardens has a nice selection of evergreen shrubs for screening as well as high quality long-lived shade and ornamental trees, such as **Red Oak, Bur Oak, and Live Oak; Aristocrat and Bradford Pears, Bald Cypress, and Chinese Pistachio.** Additionally, we have hard-to-find native trees such as **Big-tooth Maple, Eve's Necklace, Mexican Plum, Rough Leaved Dogwood,** and several varieties of **Sumac.**

## Preparing Beds for Spring

by Debbie Jackson, Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional

Now is the time to prepare your beds for the spring planting season. You may want to consider using **'Back To Earth' Cotton Burr Compost** when developing your new or existing beds. With a new bed, apply a 3-inch layer of the BTE Cotton Burr Compost to the entire bed surface. Then till the whole area to a 6 to 8-inch depth. On existing beds, apply 1-inch of the BTE Cotton Burr Compost to the entire area. Work into the soil as much as possible. Water the beds thoroughly.

When working with heavy clay soil, you may want to use **Tru-gro Expanded Shale** in addition to the compost. Expanded shale is porous lightweight particles that can absorb water and release it slowly back into the soil and help in loosening compacted clay soil. With a new bed, apply a 3-inch layer of the Tru-gro Expanded Shale to the entire bed surface. Once again, you will need to till the whole area to 6 to 8-inch depth. 'Top dress' the bed with a 3-inch layer of **Back to Earth Cotton Burr Compost** and work in. You will have created a 6-inch raised bed. Water thoroughly.





## Remember Your Valentine!

by Kelli McGaughey,  
Floral Manager

Valentine's Day is just around the corner! We can create a spectacular bouquet of colorful blooms to delight that special person in your life.

Order your *Valentine's Day* flowers before **January 31, 2004**, and receive a plush 7-1/2" white bear, compliments of North Haven Gardens' Florist [*quantities limited*]. Mention this newsletter and give us your **GROW CARD** number and receive a \$2 discount on delivery. [*Grow Card holders are entitled to in-store specials and other great offers. Pick up your free GROW CARD at North Haven Gardens to start reaping benefits.*]

Our florists use only the freshest flowers available to assure that you are 100% satisfied with the brilliance of each arrangement.

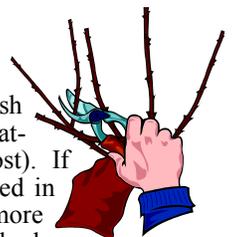
We also have a wonderful selection of plants for the garden-style arrangement as a nice alternative to cut flowers, too.



North Haven  
Gardens  
Floral Department  
214-691-6751

## Spring Rose Pruning and Care

by Bob McLaughlin, Texas Certified Nurseryman



Planning your rose garden for the spring starts now. To refurbish your existing roses for next spring, plan on pruning the repeat-blooming roses around the third week of February (after the last frost). If you have once-blooming roses, prune them after they have bloomed in the spring. Pruning will refurbish your bush and make it more vigorous. Try to cut the cane ¼ inch above an outward facing bud. This makes the rose grow to the outside and opens the center of the bush, giving better air circulation to the inside thus helping the plant's resistance to disease/fungus problems.

Care for winter isn't very hard in this country: Put about three inches of mulch around the base of the rose. This is usually enough to get you through a mild winter. If the temperature drops below 20 degrees, you might cover it with **frost cloth**. Roses are basically pretty cold-hardy during Metroplex winters.

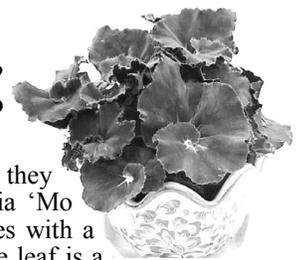
Sanitation is important. Be sure to rake up all the old fallen leaves so they won't harbor insect eggs and fungal spores. A spray with dormant oil or **Ultra-Fine** spray will take care of many incipient insect and disease problems. Looking forward to seeing you in the spring. Remember our **Rose Weekend is March 6 and 7, 2004**.

*Check out our diverse selection of **pruning tools** for your every need, as well as the garden gloves that we carry — Mud gloves are great, and we have long-cuffed leather gloves also, among many other styles. Pick up **plant labels**, too, so you don't lose track of what's growing in your garden! We have stakes, tags, and markers to choose from.*

## New Begonia: 'Mo Reese' by Don Miller, Horticulturist

### Begonias are Great House Plants

Are you looking for something unusual for a house plant? Try adding the newly-developed rhizomatous begonia 'Mo Reese' that is now available at North Haven Gardens.



Most begonias make excellent house plants as long as they receive lots of strong light but not the direct sun. Begonia 'Mo Reese' is a new exciting begonia that has black wavy leaves with a spiral where the leaf attaches to the petiole. The back of the leaf is a contrasting red. It has a nice mounding growth habit. Begonias like to be fertilized regularly with a balanced plant food such as *Peters 20-20-20*, or *Miracle Gro Pro-Select 20-20-20*.

Share the GROW CARD information with your friends. They can receive North Haven Garden's Newsletter and valuable coupons. They can download the form at [www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com) or pick one up at our *Customer Service Desk* inside the store.

North Haven Gardens  
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 Dallas, TX 75230  
 (214) 363-5316  
 Address Correction  
 Requested



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

See Our Weekly Ad  
 for Special Offerings  
 Weekend Lectures,  
 Plant Lists  
 Store Events  
 And So Much More!

### SOCIETY MEETINGS

AT NORTH HAVEN GARDENS

*Be certain to call the clubs to confirm their meetings — in event of a schedule change.*

**Begonia Society** 214-363-6715 x340  
 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** 214-691-6691  
 Meets February, 4th Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m.

**Dallas Rose Society** 972-234-5184  
 Meets the fourth Friday at 7:00 p.m.

**Daylily Growers of Dallas**  
 972-241-1726  
 Meets the third Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

**First Men's Garden Club of Dallas**  
 972-530-3691  
 Meets the third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

**Iris Society**  
 972-231-9594  
 Meets the third Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m.

**Southwestern Fern Society**  
 214-544-7288  
 Meets the second Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m.

### Texas 'Earthkind' Roses

'Earthkind' roses have been tested by Texas A&M University and rated over a 4-year period, never having been fertilized, sprayed, or pruned (except to remove dead wood) during testing. The roses that have received the 'Earthkind' designation combine the best of organic and traditional gardening in a research-proven system based on real-world effectiveness and environmental responsibility.

Of 117 varieties tested, 11 gave spectacular performance despite adverse growing conditions and very little maintenance. The 11 varieties were grown on their own roots (as opposed to being grafted onto other root stock) and exhibited good heat and drought tolerance, maintaining blooms even through hot 100-degree Dallas summers.

Having outstanding disease and insect tolerance/resistance and producing spectacular blooms here in Texas, the 11 varieties are *Sea Foam, Marie Daly, The Fairy, Caldwell Pink, Knock Out, Perle d'Or, Belinda's Dream* [pictured], *Elsie Poulsen, Katy Road Pink, Mutabilis, and Climbing Pinkie*.



North Haven Gardens will carry these varieties during the upcoming **Rose Weekend (March 6-7) and most of the year**. For information about these and many other roses, visit our book section for the perfect rose book to add to your personal garden library — *The Ultimate Rose Book, Roses — A Care Manual*, and *Encyclopedia of Roses*.

### Fertilizing Pansies and Winter Bedding Plants

by Chuck Goecke, Texas Certified Nursery Professional



The highly-bred, new pansy varieties and other spectacular winter flowers need lots of fertilizer to perform at their peak. Feed them lightly at least once a month. Every two weeks is even better if using a soluble fertilizer. *Organic or slow-release conventional fertilizers* both work well and lessen the need for as frequent fertilizing.

Many people like to use **blood meal** for pansies because of the added benefit of repelling rabbits. A very light feeding of blood meal, about once a week, would maximize 'rabbit protection'. Pansies and most flowers growing in our soil in North Texas like a fertilizer that is high in nitrogen and moderate in phosphorous, such as a 3-1-2 ratio. '**Color Star**' is a great professional grade fertilizer, best for beds with lots of landscaper's mix which is a hybrid organic/chemical fertilizer. '**Osmocote**' makes a great slow release coated fertilizer.

'**Sustane**' and '**Bioform**' are great economical, slow-release brands that work well in an organic program. North Haven Gardens has a complete line of the best products to keep your beds looking terrific all season long.

Lectures, events and sales information.

For the month of January see our ad at [www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com) only. Updated each week.

For the month of February see our Ad each Friday in the Dallas Morning News' House & Garden section.



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