



Photo by Sandi Schwedler, NHG Staff, from her spring harvest.

Grow Your Love of Gardening in Winter

By Cody Hoya, NHG General Manager

Welcome to our fresh newsletter design! We're excited to share our evolving approach to garden education:

- The 2014 NHG School of Gardening program is designed to deliver specific information in manageable blocks of time.
- In-depth classes, will allow you to pursue further information on the gardening topics that interest you.
- In January and February, we're offering introductory classes in the series: go online now to www.nhg.com/SOG for details and to sign up today.
- POP UP classes and demonstrations will continue to feature information in convenient, 20-minute servings.

These fun, informal demos and reviews take place throughout NHG, specific to the plant or product we're discussing. Look for POP UP demos on everything from planting potatoes to rose pruning in this issue.

North Haven Gardens has been my gardening home since I moved to north Texas in 2005, and I'm thrilled to be back as part of this great team. NHG is a Dallas gardening institution: we don't just strive to bring you the best selection of plants and gardening supplies; our goal is to provide you with the tools and information to inspire and empower you as a gardener. Happy planting!



Rusty E. Allen, NHG Staff, teaches a POP UP Class

NOW is the TIME

- ✂ Start tomato seeds indoors.
- ✂ Plant fruit trees, shade trees, shrubs, & perennials.
- ✂ Transplant existing trees and shrubs while their root systems are dormant.
- ✂ Amend existing beds with organic compost and expanded shale.
- ✂ Install new raised beds for vegetables.
- ✂ Plant daffodils and perennial bulbs through March.
- ✂ Plant onions through January.
- ✂ Plant potatoes in February.
- ✂ Plant transplants of broccoli, cabbage, carrots, chard, spinach, lettuce, asparagus crowns, grape vines and berries.
- ✂ Protect tender plants with frost cloth during severe cold spells. Water prior to hard freezes to lessen cold injury.
- ✂ Add color with pansies, violas & cyclamen.
- ✂ Attend our gardening educational programs!





Growing onions and leeks

By Sandi Schwedler, TCNP, Hardgoods Buyer

Onion varieties that are classified as ‘short-day’ and ‘intermediate-day’ perform best in our area. Leeks are not daylight sensitive, so this is not a factor in selection.

To plant, start by digging a trench 4” deep in well-amended soil. Add fertilizer, such as **NHG’s Bulb Food (6-8-4)** or the **NHG Herb and Veggie Food (4-6-5)**, followed by 3” of soil on top of the fertilizer. Plant the onion slips approximately 1” deep with 4” spacing. If you’re like me, you want to harvest some early as “spring” or “green” onions, so plant the slips as close as 2” apart and harvest every other one early, prior to them beginning to bulb (this leaves room for the remaining ones to get full size). As the onion begins to form, the soil around them should be loose, allowing the bulb to expand. Remember that the size of the onion bulb is dependent upon the number and size of the green leaves at the time of bulb maturity; for each leaf there will be a ring of onion; the larger

the leaf, the larger the ring will be. The onion will first form a top and then, depending on the onion variety and length of daylight, start to form the bulb.

Planting Leeks is a bit different: you want to ensure that as much of the shaft of the leek remains white and tender, so plant them about 4” deep with a few inches of the leaf left visible. Through the growing process, mound up soil around the shaft so that sunlight does not get to it and turn it green, which will make it tough. When the shaft is about 1”-2” in diameter, use a garden fork to harvest. Unable to plant your leeks or onion slips right away? Remove them from the bag and spread them out in a cool, dry area. The roots and tops may begin to dry out, but don’t be alarmed: the onion is a member of the lily family and can live for three weeks off the bulb. They’ll put forth new roots soon after being planted.



We also offer some specialty varieties: **Cippolini onions** are an Italian staple—they are smaller, flatter onions with a very mild flavor. One of my favorite recipes is oven-roasted Cippolini onions with a balsamic vinegar glaze—and they’re even more wonderful when you can tell your friends that you not only prepared them, you grew them!

Check the calendar of events for POP UP Demonstrations on planting that will help ensure success.

Our selection this year includes:

Short Day Onions:

Texas Supersweet - a yellow, globe shaped onion that will store well for 2-3 months. It gets up to 6” in diameter!

Southern Belle Red - is a tried and true “purple” onion that you should never be without. Can get up to 4” in diameter; Stores for about 2 months.

White Bermuda - what a kitchen staple! It’s a bit flatter than the previous ones and about 4” if left to mature fully. These onions to have some ‘heat’ to them. Stores for 2 months also.

Yellow Granex - yellow, semi-flat, 4” onion that has a slightly shorter shelf life of about a month.

Intermediate Day:

Super Star - the only white onion to win All-American selection. It’s 4” in size and stores well for a couple of months.

Candy - a large (6”) yellow onion that stores for 3 months.

Red Candy Apple - lovely deep red, flattened-globe shape onion that stores well for 3 months.

Did You Purchase a Poinsettia from NHG this Holiday Season?

Bring it back in-store for 10% off greenhouse plants, orchids, ferns and more. One discounted plant per poinsettia returned. Details at nhg.com



Cruise into our Tropical Greenhouse

By Kay Nelson, TCNP, NHG Garden Coach

Time for a tropical cruise! Cruise into the tropical greenhouse and select some of your favorite plants, ideal for the warm, dry environment of your home or office (and even on the patio when the weather permits!) Houseplants purify the air and living plants are good *Feng Shui*. They’re an ideal way to brighten up your home after the holidays and to give yourself a dash of green in preparation for spring. For brighter, cooler areas, use **orchids**, **streptocarpus**, and **calathea** as well as **ferns** (there are so many kinds available!) For lower, more moderate light, try **palms**, **bromeliads**, **begonias** and **spathiphyllum** as well as ferns

and any of the **dracaenas**. For the lowest light areas, use **aglonaema**, **philodendrons**, **pothos ivy**, and tried and true tough favorite, **sanseveria**. Leave in growers pots and place in a cachepot or re-pot using **NHG organic potting soil**. Fertilize sparingly with a mild organic fertilizer or time-release **Osmocote**. Keep leaves clean and free of dust, and check for water about once per week. Be careful to check for water by touch, and make sure the soil is draining freely and that drain pans are not holding too much water. Enjoy the tropics and don’t get a sunburn!

Scan here to visit NHG.com for calendar event details



January - February 2014 CALENDAR

January 2014

Saturday, January 4th:

9am-Noon: Bonsai Society of Dallas

10-11am: **Houseplants 101**

11-11:30am: **POP UP Demo: Grow Onions!**

Sunday, January 5th:

2-2:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Grow Onions!**

3pm: Greater North Texas Orchid Society

Thursday, January 9th:

4-4:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Fresh Color Containers!**

Friday, January 10th:

11:30am: Texas Daffodil Society

Saturday, January 11th:

10am: Alpha African Violet Society

9-11:30am: **Gardening 101:**

Introduction to Home Landscape Gardening. This beginner-level class will focus on the basics of getting the most from your home ornamental beds and borders. \$35 Registration required: 214-363-5316. More details at nhg.com

11-11:30am: **POP UP Demo: Success With Seeds!**

2-2:30pm: **POP UP Class: Winter Veggie Garden Preview: Plant Now!**

Thursday, January 16th:

4-4:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Winter Container Veggies!**

Saturday, January 18th:

10am: Daylily Growers of Dallas

11am-Noon: **Demo: Success With Seeds!**

11am: **Chicken Sale/Q&A**
1-2pm: **Indoor Gardening Magic: Terrariums!**

Sunday, January 19th:

1-1:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Winter Container Veggies!**

3pm: Iris Society of Dallas

Thursday, January 23rd:

4-4:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Vertical Herbs and Veggies!**



Saturday, January 25th:

9-11:30am: **Gardening 102: Introduction to Home Veggie Gardening.** This beginner-level class will focus on the basics of getting your edible garden off to the best start possible. \$35 Registration required. 214-363-5316. More details at nhg.com

10:30am: Herb Society of America - **Native Texas Herbs**

11-11:30am: **POP UP Demo: Vertical Herbs and Veggies!**

Sunday, January 26th:

10-11am: **Soil Success**

Thursday, January 30th:

4-4:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Introduction to Rhubarb & Horseradish**

February 2014

Saturday, February 1st:

11-11:30am: **POP UP Demo: Plentiful Potatoes!**

9am-Noon: Bonsai Society of Dallas monthly meeting

10-10:30am: **POP UP Tour: Interior Exotics Showcase**

1-2pm: **Growing and Caring for Roses**

3-3:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Asparagus**

Sunday, February 2nd:

11-11:30am: **POP UP Demo: Plentiful Potatoes!**

3pm: Greater North Texas Orchid Society

3-3:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Asparagus**

Friday, February 7th:

11:30am: Texas Daffodil Society

4-4:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Rose Pruning!**

Saturday, February 8th:

10am: Alpha African Violet Society

9-11:30am: **Gardening 101: Introduction to Home Landscape Gardening.** This beginner-level class will focus on the basics of getting the most from your home ornamental beds and borders. \$35 Registration required: 214-363-5316. More details at nhg.com

11-11:30am: **Introduction to the NHG Garden Coach Program**



1-2pm: **Plant Perennials!**

2-2:30pm: **POP UP Class: Cole Crops!**

3pm: **POP UP Demo: Rhubarb & Horseradish**

Thursday, February 13th:

4-4:30pm: **POP UP Class: Valentine Gifts for the Gardener**

Saturday, February 15th:

10am: Daylily Growers of Dallas

11am: **Chicken Sale/Q&A**

1-1:30pm **POP UP Demo: Dirt Pot Gardening**

Sunday, February 16th:

1-1:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Rose Pruning!**

2-2:30pm: **POP UP Class: What to Plant, NOW**

3pm: Iris Society of Dallas

Thursday, February 20th:

4-4:30pm: **POP UP Class: Transitional Color!**

Saturday, February 22nd:

8:30am-2:30pm: **Design Consultations by Roundtree Landscaping:** \$60. Limited space! Call today to reserve your 45-minute appointment. 214-363-5316

9-11:30am: **Gardening 102: Introduction to Home Veggie Gardening.** This beginner-level class will focus on the basics of getting your edible garden off to the best start possible. \$35 Registration required. 214-363-5316

10:30am: Herb Society - **Herbal Creations Workshop**

11-11:30am: **Introduction to the NHG Garden Coach Program**

1-1:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Rose Pruning!**

Sunday, February 23rd:

9:30am: Herb Society of America

10:30-11:30am: **Butterfly Gardening**

1-1:30pm: 4-4:30pm: **POP UP Class: Fruit Trees!**

Thursday, February 27th:

4-4:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Rhubarb & Horseradish**

Friday, February 28th:

4-4:30pm: **POP UP Demo: Growing Root Crops from Seed: Beets, Carrots and Turnips!**



NORTH HAVEN *Gardens*



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Reminder!
Spring Rose Festival
is March 1st-2nd
Open Early!
7am Saturday
& 8am Sunday
Over 200 rose
varieties available!

My Garden in Winter

By Rusty E. Allen, TCNP

I'll admit that the cold, darker days of late winter don't always inspire me to get out in the garden, but this is the best time for maintenance - especially with perennials and shrubs. Now, after a few hard freezes, I can better see how the plants are really doing and where they need to be divided or cut back. It's also easier to see where I need to increase my mulch layer before the really cold weather arrives.

January is a time for top-dressing with a half-inch thick layer of **Vital Earth Compost** (or **Vital Earth's Azalea Planting Mix** for my acid loving plants) followed by a thorough watering in. I follow by spreading a 2-3" thick layer of hardwood mulch on top of that.

I'll fertilize later, in mid-February, with the **NHG 3-2-3 organic fertilizer**. In my garden, this later winter strategy has led to so many perennials thriving and multiplying that come fall, I have a lot of dividing to do!

With the cutting back and mulching done, it's time to observe my garden's composition and find where I can squeeze in some more compact **'Kaleidoscope' Abelia**- they'll bloom beautifully and bring more butterflies summer through fall. I've always wanted a **'Spring Bouquet' Viburnum**; it's stunning in bloom (see photo) and birds love to perch in it for protection. Still, there has got to be space for my favorite

red **Camellia 'Yuletide'** and white **Hellebore 'Ivory Prince'**- two who are perfect to brighten up a shady area, plus, they will attract more bees to my garden (I was amazed at how many came to these early bloomers last year). For both transplants and new plantings, I use **Nature's Guide® Root Stimulator**, as its seaweed-based formula always works so well for me. With few full-sun spots left, I also plan to remove more of my St. Augustine lawn to make room for another **4 x 8 raised veggie bed**. I want more tomatoes this year (and less mowing and watering). While resting between winter garden chores, I've realized how many doves and cardinals are coming to the feeders now—no wonder February is National Bird-Feeding month! Tray feeders are always the most frequently visited in my garden, and Safflower has become my favorite seed: it's too bitter to attract my many squirrels, but it does attract my favorite bird, the chickadee.



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.

Meetings vary. Check nhg.com

Alpha African Violet Society

Meets the second Saturday at 11am

Bonsai Society

Meets the first Saturday at 9am
www.bonsaisocietyofdallas.com

Bromeliad Society

Meets the fourth Saturday,
every other month at 3pm
www.dfwbromeliads.com

Daylily Growers of Dallas

Meets the third Saturday at 11am

Herb Society of America

Meets the fourth Saturday at 10am
<http://www.herbsociety.org/units/north-texas.html>

Texas Daffodil Society

Meetings vary. Check nhg.com
www.texasdaffodilsociety.org

Iris Society

Meets the third Sunday at 3pm

Greater North Texas Orchid Society

Meets the first Sunday at 3pm
www.gntos.org

