

# Every Blooming Thing

**NORTH HAVEN**  
*Gardens*

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www.nhg.com  
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## Bodacious Basil *Marian Buchanan*

Do you need a good reason to endure another Texas summer? Why, to watch your basil grow, of course. This delectable herb, native to warm areas of Asia, the Middle East, Africa and South America, thrives in our long growing season. In fact, we Texans can claim bragging rights for producing better basil than gardeners from cool and cloudy climates.

Basil's growing needs are few: Sunshine, warm temperatures and adequate moisture. Since many basil plants are true annuals, they are the "James Dean of the herb world," programmed to live fast and die young. The gardener can only delay the inevitable by pruning early and often throughout the season. Harvesting may begin when the plants have only 4-6 pairs of leaves. Make no mistake: basil plants have big appetites. Regular fertilization will result

in vigorous growth and abundant leaf production. The flavors of the summer harvest can be preserved by chopping fresh leaves in a processor or blender, combining them with a small amount of vegetable oil, and freezing the resulting concentrate in small airtight containers. Use about 1/3 the amount of fresh herbs called for in soups, sauces, dressings, marinades and dips. Delicious!



## MORE SUMMER BLOOM for Your Buck!

*Don Miller*

Choosing the right perennials is a great way to achieve long lasting blooms in your garden. There are many outstanding perennials to choose from that thrive in our area. To get even more mileage from your garden perennials, you'll want to follow a good fertilization program. A water soluble fertilizer mixed with water and applied to the soil bi-weekly, or a slow release fertilizer mixed into the soil two or three times per year, will keep your flowering plants looking their best. "Deadheading" is another technique you can use to extend blooming period. By removing spent flowers before they go to seed, you can encourage the plant to produce more new blooms. Here are a few of our favorite long-blooming summer perennials.



## LONG BLOOMING PERENNIALS

BEST PERFORMERS	WEEKS	TIME	HEIGHT	COLOR
Achillea millefolium 'Paprika'	15	June-Oct	32"	Pink
Aster x frikartii 'Monch'	14	July-Oct	36"	Lavender
Dianthus 'Firewitch'	16	May-Oct	10"	Pink
Gaura lindheimeri	12	June-Sept	36"	White, Pink
Hemerocallis x hybrida 'Happy Returns'	18	June-Oct	24"	Yellow
Hemerocallis x hybrida 'Stella d' Oro'	18	June-Oct	24"	Deep Gold
Malvaviscus arboreus	16	June-Oct	60"	Red
Melampodium leucanthum	16	May-Oct	10"	White
Perovskia atriplicifolia	12	July-Sept	42"	Blue
Salvia x sylvestris 'May Night'	12	June-Sept	20"	Indigo blue
Salvia greggii	28	April-Oct	36"	Many colors
Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'	12	June-Sept	30"	Yellow
Ruellia brittoniana 'Katie's Dwarf'	20	June-Oct	10"	Blue
Scabiosa x hybrida 'Butterfly Blue'	18	May-Oct	18"	Blue
Scutellaria suffrutescens	16	June-Oct	10"	Pink
Sedum x hybrida 'Autumn Joy'	12	Aug-Oct	24"	Pink
Verbena bonariensis	16	June-Oct	40"	Rose violet
Veronica x hybrida 'Sunny Border Blue'	14	June-Oct	24"	Blue

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FREE LECTURES IN

### ~ JULY 2005 ~

All events are scheduled to begin at 1:30PM unless otherwise noted.

SAT JULY 16TH  
POND GARDENING,  
by Chuck Goeke of NHG



SAT JULY 28TH  
COMPOSTING MADE EASY,  
by Christine Hensley of NHG

### FREE LECTURES IN

### ~ AUGUST 2005 ~

All events are scheduled to begin at 1:30PM unless otherwise noted.

SAT AUGUST 6TH  
FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING,  
by Kato Dixon of NHG

SAT AUGUST 20TH  
HERBS IN THE FALL GARDEN,  
by Marian Buchanan of NHG

### WEDNESDAY AT NOON with JUDY FENDER

Advance Registration and lunch selection required. Form available on line and in store. Phone reservations accepted with credit card.

JULY 20TH • NOON TO 2PM  
"COMPANIONS IN THE GARDEN: FUN PLANTS, ACCENTS & IDEAS"

AUGUST 17TH • NOON TO 2PM  
"FALL COLOR AND IDEAS FOR THE GARDEN"



## Summer Tropicals

Chuck Goeke

This year, discover the pleasure of tropical plants... transform your courtyard, balcony, or deck into a wonderland oasis with tropical plants. If you haven't experienced the hot colors and unusual textures of plants, you're in for a treat!



### Containers Thirsty?

Judy Fender

Consider using **COIR™** mixed in with your potting soil. It's organic and has a high moisture retention. It improves aeration in containers and reduces the frequent need for irrigation. COIR is derived from coconut husk fiber and is packaged in compressed blocks that you hydrate with water. It's also a great organic soil-less growing medium for hydroponics. Add a couple of handfuls to your potting medium to help with moisture retention when preparing new pots.

**Soil Moist™** granules are another great product to add to established containers. These polymer crystals hold water and then release it back into the soil as the soil dries. Add it to the root zone of the potted plant, and only use the recommended amount.

Make sure when planting your containers not to fill the soil all the way to the top of the pot. Leave an inch or two so there is room to water thoroughly without it spilling over the edge of the container. Add an inch of mulch to the top of the soil to help conserve moisture.

Tropical plants can be grown in pots and planters almost anywhere, providing they get at least 6 hours of sun daily. Fertilize them weekly using Hibiscus Food, BR-61, Miracle Gro or Miracid, Maxicrop, Hasta Gro, and keep evenly moist. Spray every 10 days to 2 weeks with a light concentration of UltraFine Sunspray to control insects like mealybugs, aphids and scale.

	HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	FERTILIZER	CONTAINER, GROUND OR BOTH
Mandevilla	6' - 8'	White to Pink Vine	1-2-1	B
Diplandia	3' - 5'	Pink to Red Bushy Vine	1-2-1	B
Passion Vine - Passiflora	8' - 12'	Blue to Purple Vine - Butterflies	1-2-1	G
Bouganvillea	2' - 6'	Many Colors, Thorny Shrub, Keep Pot Bound	3-1-2	C
Hibiscus	2' - 4'	Many Colors, Special Fertilizer	3-1-2	B
Lantana	1' - 2'	Many or Multi-Colored Blooms	1-2-1	B
Esperanza - Tecoma	3' - 5'	Yellow Heat Loving High Performer	1-2-1	B
Fire Bush - Hamelia	2' - 4'	Orange Tubular Flowers	1-2-1	B
Cannas esp 'Tropicana	3' - 5'	Orange or Yellow With Big Lush Striped leaves	1-2-1	G
Ixora	2' - 3'	Glossy Compact Leaves with Orange or Yellow Flowers	3-1-2	C
Plumeria	3' - 6'	Many Colors, Fragrant	3-1-2	C

3-1-2 fertilizers are Texas Tee, NHG 21-7-14, Systane, Hibiscus Food, Osmocote Indoor Outdoor or Fish Emulsion

1-2-1 (approx) Fertilizers are Miracle Grow, Hasta Grow, BR- 61, Nutra Star

## Sensational Summer-Blooming Shrubs

**Butterfly Bush** (*Buddleia davidii*) - Truly a butterfly magnet! One of the most fragrant flowering shrubs, butterfly bush blooms from summer to frost. Available in pink, purple, blue, yellow and white. Plant in full sun.

**Rose of Sharon** (*Hibiscus syriacus*) - One of the showiest plants of the summer! Rose of Sharon is also one of the easiest to grow. Dense growing and upright when young, spreading with age. Flowers open in July and will continue through late summer and into fall. Plant as a screen, hedge or specimen in full sun.

**Texas Sage 'Silverado'** (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) - Texas sage is a drought resistant native, which makes it a good choice for a corner of the yard not easily reached by watering systems. It needs good drainage and likes full sun, but will stand a little shade. It is tolerant of poor soils and has no pest problems.

**Abelia 'Edward Goucher'** - Pink Abelia is an evergreen cultivar that grows 3-5' tall and 5' wide. 'Ed Goucher' has lacier foliage than A. grandiflora and produces lilac-pink flowers in the spring and bronze foliage in the fall.

**Rose "Knockout"** - Absolutely beautiful and probably the best shrub rose to hit the market. This plant will bloom Spring, Summer, and Fall. The hotter the weather, the better this rose performs. New growth is bright red. Fall color is great and orange red hips last through winter. Disease resistant. Full sun, in well-drained soil.

**Dwarf Pomegranate, Punica granatum 'Nana'** - A dwarf pomegranate, growing to only 3 feet tall, 'Nana' is the perfect ornamental for containers or small gardens. Bright reddish-orange blooms in early summer are followed by charming 2- to 3-inch orange fruit. Self-fertile and hardier than the full-sized bush, 'Nana' is a carefree delight! Needs well-drained soil. Zones 7-10.



## Bt: A Natural Solution for Tent Caterpillars

Christine Hensley

If you've had problems in years past with tent caterpillars and are looking for an organic solution to the problem, you may want to try *Bt*. *Bt* is an abbreviation for *Bacillus thuriangiensis*, which is a bacteria that controls caterpillars. It is also produced under the trade name of **Thuricide™**. *Bt* is a naturally occurring organism that is organic and safe to use around kids, birds and pets. Spray *Bt* onto the foliage of your plants, making sure to cover the top and bottom of the leaves. The caterpillars must eat some of the foliage and ingest the *Bt*. After the caterpillars ingest the bacteria, they will stop feeding and die in a few days. If you're spraying a large plant, like a pecan tree, you will want to use a hose-end or a pressure-type sprayer to reach as far up into your tree as possible. You will need to reapply after a heavy rain, and you should apply weekly until you notice that the caterpillars are gone. If you are encouraging butterflies in your garden, make sure not to spray *Bt* on your host plants, as it will also affect your beneficial caterpillars.

## The Fall Vegetable Garden

Kato Dixon

Mid-summer is just the right time to begin preparing and planting your garden for a fall harvest. Here are several key factors to the success of your fall vegetable garden.

**Crop Selection:** For your fall garden, it is best to select early-maturing varieties to avoid losing your harvest to frost. Seed packets and plant tags will give you the days to maturation for each variety. In early July, you can plant tomatoes and gourds for fall harvest. Plant peppers mid-July for fall production. In August, plant beans, squash, cucumbers early in the month; broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower, mid-month. Plant leafy crops late in August.

**Site Selection:** Six to eight hours of full sunlight is crucial. Keep your vegetable beds clear of hedges, shrubs or trees that will heavily shade them.

**Drainage:** Optimum vegetable production is achieved in well-drained soils. Most vegetables are not well-adapted to our heavy clay soils, which require amending. Incorporate decomposed organic matter, such as organic compost, when preparing beds.

**Water Supply:** Daily moisture should be provided on an individual basis to transplants for the first two weeks. As plants mature, check them daily for watering needs.

**Fertilizer:** Proper fertilization is another important key to successful vegetable gardening. As a general rule, a 10-20-10 or 12-24-12 ratio fertilizer at 1 to 2 pounds per 100 square feet at planting is suitable for our clay soil type. You can use the Fertilome Tomato & Vegetable food (7-22-8), HiYield Tomato & Vegetable food (4-10-6). At first fruit set, for crops such as tomatoes, peppers, and squash apply a side dressing of Nitrogen fertilizer, such as Espoma Dried Blood 12-0-0, at a rate of 2 pounds per 100 linear feet of row space. Side dress leafy crops such as cabbage and lettuce when they develop several sets of leaves.



## Now is the Time...



## JULY

**Plant:** Tomatoes early in July for fall production and gourds for fall harvest. Plant peppers mid-July for fall production.

**Fertilize:** Feed container plants and roses regularly and watch for insect and disease problems. We carry a full line of rose care products, including organics.

**Water:** Learn your city's water regulations. Water deeply when you water your lawn. Water container plants as needed; use 'Soil Moist' to retain water in the soil for container plants.

**Pest Control:** Use *Bt* (*Bacillus thuriangiensis*) for caterpillars, blast aphids with water, and release ladybugs.

**Disease Control:** Spray Neem oil, potassium bicarbonate or horticultural oil for control of black spot, powdery mildew and other fungal diseases. Keeping foliage dry at night will help prevent these diseases.

## AUGUST

**Plant:** Fall-flowering bulbs such as *Lycoris*, fall annuals (marigolds, zinnias, celosias) and perennials (Mexican bush sage, fall asters). Plant wildflower seeds late in the month to allow for germination and growth prior to winter. Plant beans, squash, cucumbers early in the month; broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower mid-month. Plant leafy crops late in August.

**Pests:** Spray horticultural oil, such as Ultra Fine, or orange oil for spider mites, lace bugs, thrips, and scale.

**Mulch** all plantings to retain moisture and protect against harsh, hot temperatures this summer.

Visit our website for more tips  
and information  
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7700 Northaven Road  
 Dallas, TX 75230  
 214-363-5316



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## Summer Watering Tips

Make your job of watering plants easier and more efficient with the proper practices and tools:

- Mulches not only make plantings look more attractive, but their most important function is to help retain soil moisture. Mulch around plants to a depth of 2-3 inches.
- Watering cans and small containers work great for “spot watering.”
- Check to make sure that you have the proper length hose(s) to reach every corner of your garden. Add a water wand to the hose to get the water where it’s most needed - the base of the plants.
- The best time to water is during the early morning hours of a sunny day. Before daylight is best.
- Always water plants and container gardens thoroughly.
- In the landscape, a good rule of thumb to follow is: an inch of rain per week minimum. Keep track of precipitation with a rain gauge. New individual plants that are set out, direct sown seed beds, sodding, etc., often require daily care until established.
- Use soaker hoses to provide slow ‘drip’ watering.
- Pay extra attention to plants in containers and hanging baskets, as they tend to dry out faster.
- Place Tree Gators, a drip irrigation bag, on newly planted trees.
- If you’ll be away on an extended vacation or just for a few days, make arrangements with a trusted friend or neighbor to “plant sit.” Better yet, NORTH HAVEN GARDENS now carries a full line of irrigation supplies to keep your containers looking great while you’re away. We have fixtures and timers that affix easily to your existing irrigation system or outdoor faucet. There’s nothing worse than worrying about your garden while you’re away - except coming home to crisp plants!



### DALLAS MANDATORY WATERING GUIDELINES

June 1 to Sept. 30, watering of lawns or landscapes with an irrigation system or sprinkler is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Watering with a hand-held hose or a soaker hose is permitted at any time. Don’t allow your sprinkler system to water driveways, sidewalks and streets. Do not water or irrigate lawns or landscapes during any form of precipitation. Rain/freeze sensors are now required on all irrigation systems installed on or after Jan. 1, 2002. Violations of these outdoor watering guidelines can now result in fines of \$250 to \$2,000 per incident. For water conservation information, call 214/670-3155.

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

at NORTH HAVEN GARDENS

**BEGONIA SOCIETY**  
 214-363-6715 x 340  
*Meets the third Thursday at 7:00 PM*

**BONSAI SOCIETY**  
 214-357-3048  
*Meets the first Thursday at 6:30 PM*

**BROMELIAD SOCIETY**  
 972-699-4013  
*Meets the fourth Saturday at 3:00 PM*

**DALLAS ROSE SOCIETY**  
 214-350-7023  
*Meets the fourth Friday at 7:00 PM*  
**No July Meeting**

**DAYLILY GROWERS OF DALLAS**  
 972-279-2019  
*Meets the third Saturday at 10:00 AM*

**FIRST MEN’S GARDEN CLUB OF DALLAS**  
 972-530-3691  
*Meets the third Tuesday at 7:00 PM*

**IRIS SOCIETY**  
 972-517-7219  
*Meets the third Sunday, 3:00 – 5:00 PM*

**NORTH TEXAS WATER GARDEN SOCIETY**  
 972-386-7787  
*Meets the second Tuesday at 7:00 PM*

**SOUTHWESTERN FERN SOCIETY**  
 214-544-7288  
*Meets the second Sunday 3:00 – 5:00 PM*

