

NORTH HAVEN Gardens

Every Blooming Thing

www.nhg.com

JULY • AUGUST • 2008

The North Haven Gardens Commitment to an EcoFriendly Lifestyle

By Leslie Finical Halleck, GM, M.S. Horticulture

Here at NORTH HAVEN GARDENS we understand how important it is to beautify our environment, while at the same time protect it. We know that many of you garden organically, are interested in organics, or might just be learning about eco-friendly gardening and products. We want you to know that we continue to strive to be a great source of both information and products to help you along in your eco-friendly efforts. Not only do we offer a large selection of plants grown locally without chemical aid, we also carry a full line of organic and eco-friendly supplies for your garden. Some of our new products include rain collection barrels, composters and plants sold in biodegradable pots. We are always adding free educational programs on topics such as water collection in the garden, rain gardens, composting, vegetable gardening and much more. We feel that urban vegetable gardening will become much more common in the near future, and plan to add more plants, products and classes on this topic to help you on your way to a great harvest. All the staff here at NHG is committed to your gardening success and we are passionate about your garden! Look for our Eco-Friendly Logo!



The Benefits of a Balanced Garden

By Christine Hensley, TCNP

We all dream of the picture perfect garden where everything blooms perfectly, bugs don't eat plants, and fungi and weeds gracefully die of their own accord. However, the reality is that bugs eat plants, fungi infect plants, weeds GROW! And, even if you're doing everything right, not all the flowers are perfect. And that's okay. The reality of gardening is that you can't kill every pest. And, by tolerating some, we are increasing the opportunity for predatory insects to work. Limiting pesticide applications will help create a more hospitable environment for the good guys like lizards, frogs and bees. Stress less, enjoy your garden more! NORTH HAVEN GARDENS has beneficial insects, organic garden products and we are always here to answer all your questions to help you maintain your balanced garden!



FRI, JULY 4 - 11 • JULY 4TH SALE

Don't miss our annual 4th of July Sale to get 25% off all plants in the store!

Greenhouse plants, seasonal color, trees, shrubs, groundcover, perennials, herbs and more!
In-stock plant material only.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL PROGRAMS ARE COMPLIMENTARY
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

~ JULY 2008 ~

FRI, JULY 4 - 11 • **JULY 4TH SALE**
All in-stock plant material 25% off!
See below for details.

SAT, JULY 12 • 1:30PM
CRAPPE MYRTLE VARIETIES & CARE
by Bram Franklin, Bonick Landscaping, Crappe Myrtle Expert. Sponsored by the First Men's Garden Club (FMGC).

SUN, JULY 13 • 1:30PM
ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS TO THE GARDEN
by Carolyn Oldham, Bird Expert.

TUES, JULY 15 • 7PM
WATERWISE GARDENS Lush gardens with less water! Sponsored by the FMGC.

SAT, JULY 19 • 1:30PM
START YOUR VEGGIE SEEDS!
by Kay Nelson, NHG Garden Coach, TCNP Home grown veggies are easy with tips and advice from the experts. Get your seeds going for a great fall harvest!

SUN, JULY 27 • 1:30PM
BENEFICIAL INSECTS by Carolyn Rozier, Dallas County Master Gardener

~ AUGUST 2008 ~

SUN, AUG 2 • 1:30PM
WATER GARDENS by Aquascapes. Learn the basics of creating and maintaining a water garden.

SAT, AUG 9 • 9AM - NOON
IRIS SALE Benefitting the Iris Society.

SAT, AUG 9 • 1:30PM
SHADE GARDENS
by Dean Brown. Sponsored by the FMGC.

TUES, AUGUST 19 • 7PM
DALLAS ARBORETUM BOTANICAL SOCIETY PLANT TRIALS by Jimmy Turner, Director of Horticulture Research at the Dallas Arboretum, discusses plants that do well in N. Texas. Sponsored by the FMGC.





IT ALL STARTS WITH HEALTHY SOIL!

By Christine Hensley, TCNP

All healthy plants start with healthy soil! Healthy soil is microbially active, loose, crumbly, drains well and retains adequate moisture. As we create new beds here in N. Texas, we are usually starting from a base of black clay. Don't remove that soil, there are good guys living in there! Creating balanced, healthy soil is simple. First, add lots of organic material such as compost. This improves the microbial activity in the soil. Next, add expanded shale to improve drainage. Dried molasses, greensand and lava sand all add micronutrients, which also increases the microbial activity in your soil. Patience is important, it takes about 3 years of regular additions of compost, mulching and proper watering to achieve healthy soil. But, even in the beginning, you plants will benefit from the amendments, and will reward you with lush new growth and blooms. *Still have questions? Stop by NHG for more important soil information!*



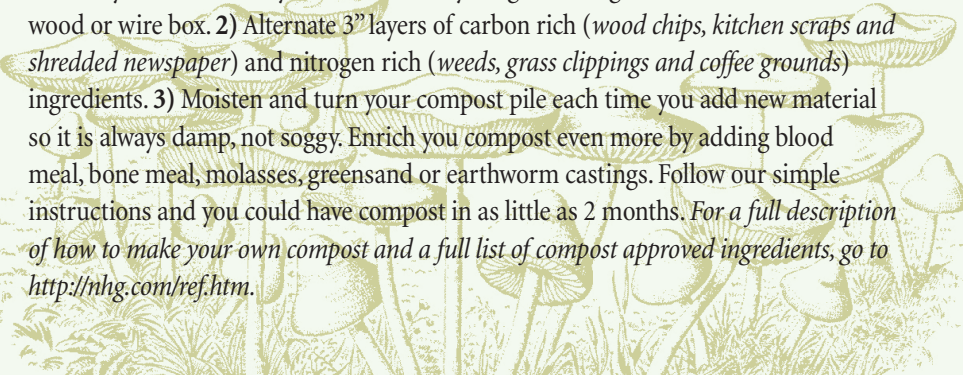
Organic Lawn Care: Transitioning Your Lawn To Organic

By Chuck Goecke, MTCNP

Once you commit to "going organic" in your lawn, a transition period starts where the natural balance within the soil begins to restore itself. The soil community of beneficial bacteria, fungi, and tiny critters will begin to adjust their populations to the levels that they should be for our soils. There are lots of things we can do to help this process along. First we should rethink the concept of fertilizing. Now, we feed the soil, and let the soil feed the plants or turf. Slow release organic fertilizers, such as the NHG 6-3-0 or Corn Gluten Meal should be applied about every two months, between February and September. Additionally, organic matter, like compost can be spread over the surface, up to 1 inch deep. Molasses and horticultural corn meal both provide a source of carbohydrates to feed the soil and build up the populations of the beneficial organisms that may break down toxins in the soil. Charcoal and zeolite can be added to absorb and hold toxic chemicals that have been put on in the past, allowing the critters do their job. Lava sand, green sand and humate are natural products that either contain or help release minerals and micro-nutrients. It takes about 3 years to begin to realize all the benefits of an organic program. The benefits are greater drought resistance, less fertilizer required, better natural weed suppression from vigorous, deeply rooted grass, and less disease and pest issues. *NORTH HAVEN GARDENS is committed to providing you with the best organic products and advice available.*

Easy Compost 1, 2, 3

Now is a great time to start a compost pile! Leaves, grass clippings and kitchen scraps can be turned into a gourmet meal for your plants. Rich, dark, earthy compost improves soil aeration, loosens clay soils, helps sandy soils retain water, improves soil fertility and stimulates healthy root development. All you need to do is 1) choose a site with easy access to both your kitchen and your garden. A good starter size is a 3'x3'x3' wood or wire box. 2) Alternate 3" layers of carbon rich (*wood chips, kitchen scraps and shredded newspaper*) and nitrogen rich (*weeds, grass clippings and coffee grounds*) ingredients. 3) Moisten and turn your compost pile each time you add new material so it is always damp, not soggy. Enrich you compost even more by adding blood meal, bone meal, molasses, greensand or earthworm castings. Follow our simple instructions and you could have compost in as little as 2 months. *For a full description of how to make your own compost and a full list of compost approved ingredients, go to <http://nhg.com/ref.htm>.*



DALLAS MANDATORY WATERING GUIDELINES

April 1st to October 1st, 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. As of January 1, 2005 all irrigation systems must be equipped with rain sensing devices and freeze gauges. 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.



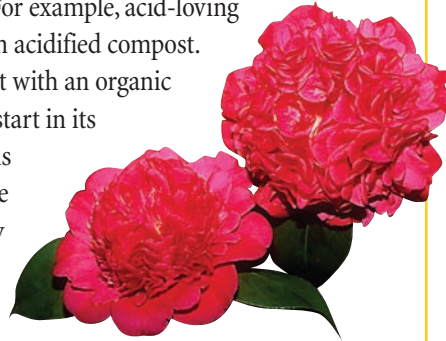
Now is the Time...



J U L Y

Organic Tree & Shrub Care By Alison Swann

Planting and caring for trees and shrubs organically has never been easier. NORTH HAVEN GARDENS carries everything you need to care for your trees and shrubs organically. Working in expanded shale to break up our clay soil and employing compost to amend the soil are essential to giving your new trees and shrubs a solid, natural start. Composted cotton burrs are available in several versions, depending on what plants you select. For example, acid-loving crepe myrtles, hollies and camellias benefit from acidified compost. Drenching the root ball of the material you plant with an organic root stimulator gives your tree or shrub a head start in its new home. Insect pests, including the webworms that overtook many of our trees last year, may be combated with trichogramma wasps. These tiny wasps lay their eggs inside caterpillar eggs, causing them to die before hatching. Use nature's own solutions! Grow your trees and shrubs organically. *NORTH HAVEN GARDENS carries beneficial insects and a full line of organic products for your trees and shrubs.*



Why Grow Your Own Veggies and Herbs?

By Kay Nelson, TCNP, NHG Garden Coach

1. Homegrown tastes best!
2. You always know where your food comes from.
3. It is something the whole family can take part in.
4. It gives you a sense of accomplishment.

Anyone can grow veggies and herbs in the ground or in containers! Home-grown herbs and veggies taste much better than produce purchased in stores or even fruit stands and farmers markets. The fresh flavor can't be beat and you can be sure of how they are grown—without the use of pesticides and chemicals. If growing plants in containers, be sure the container is big enough and that plants with similar needs are planted together. All you need is good soil, organic fertilizer, a sunny spot and water. For both herbs and veggies in the garden, prep beds with lots of compost, expanded shale, lava sand, HuMax, molasses and corn meal. Use a good fertilizer such as NHG Organic Herb and Veggie Food to encourage a bountiful harvest. Go to www.nhg.com/products for a full list of herbs great for our area and a list of veggie planting dates.

NORTH HAVEN GARDENS will also be featuring a series of Vegetable programs over the next year, beginning with "Get Your Veggies Going!" July 19th by Kay Nelson.

Plant: Tomatoes early in July for fall production and plant pumpkins and gourds for fall harvest. Plant peppers about 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. See page 3 for more tips. Water container plants as needed; use 'Soil Moist' to retain water in the soil for container plants.

Pest control: Use BT for caterpillars, blast aphids with water, and release ladybugs.

Disease control: Spray Neem oil or potassium bicarbonate or horticultural oil for control of black spot, powdery mildew and other fungal diseases.

A U G U S T

Plant: Fall-flowering bulbs, 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 and squash early in the month; cucumbers, broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower about mid-month. Plant leafy crops late in August.

Pests: Spray spinosad, horticultural oil or orange oil for spider mites, lace bugs, thrips, and scale.

Mulch, mulch, mulch to keep in moisture and protect against harsh, hot temperatures this summer.

Visit our website for more tips and information www.nhg.com

