



*A bountiful summer harvest of peppers, eggplant, squash, cucumbers and cherry tomatoes.*

## Learn and Grow through Summer

By Rusty E. Allen, TCNP, NHG Education & Outreach Coordinator

Fall tomato transplants are in, but just for a short time—they need to be planted early in July to produce well. Pepper and eggplant transplants can be planted now, too for a fresh supply of your summer favorites well into fall. If you're new to planting summer tomato transplants for fall harvest, plan to join me for my **Successful Fall Tomato Gardening class** on Saturday, July 5th at 1pm—I'll be providing a full hour of help and advice to get you off to a successful start.



*Fall tomatoes should be planted by early July.*

For direct-seed crops, it's time to plant winter squashes and pumpkins outside through July. Summer squashes, cucumbers, and most beans can be sown outside for the second time this year. In late August, we'll be getting ready to start seeds inside or outside for most cool season greens, herbs, and cole crops like broccoli, Brussels sprouts and kale. Got seed shock? I've got quick primers planned for you in the form of **POP UP classes in both July and August**, covering fall seeding and other timely topics in a brief but informative setting so you can move on with your fall garden plans. First time with a fall vegetable garden? We've got your class. Our **School of Gardening 102: Introduction to Home Veggie Gardening** is for you, on Sunday, July 6th at 10am. I'll cover all kinds of vegetables with seasonal emphasis on what to do now. **NHG redwood raised bed kits** are a great way to grow so many things—and if you've never set one up, there's an **informative how-to** on Sunday, August 10th, where I'll show you how to do it, from



*Redwood raised bed kit in our display garden.*

assembly to our recommended soil recipe. **Check our calendar of events** for these and other great opportunities—take a break from the heat and come learn from us here at NHG. See you in the comfortable (and air conditioned!) Gardener's Classroom.



# Dazzle your Summer Guests with Exotic Planters

By Cody Hoya, NHG General Manager

You've planned the menu, planted your herbs for those fresh cocktails, and invited your guests. What's the crowning jewel for your summer party? Dress up your patio, porch or gazebo with a unique, creative living centerpiece that's sure to have your guests talking for weeks. Exotic tropical plants like orchids, bromeliads and tillandsias aren't just for inside. During our warm months, they're the perfect way to add that punch of 'WOW' to shady, protected spots—ideal for where we do our outdoor entertaining.

While large installations like the one at right may seem complicated, they're actually very easy to create. This vertical trough planter was constructed of a simple piece of plywood with a wire mesh "hammock", lined with sphagnum moss or cocofiber basket liner, and filled with



soil. I added Spanish moss for additional interest and filled it with a variety of tropical plants including Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis orchids, Neoregelia and Vriesia bromeliads, airy 'Ming' ferns, easy Pothos ivy, and other great exotic finds.

Your creation doesn't have to be large and elaborate; a simple wall basket adorned with mosses and filled with a blooming orchid, interesting bromeliad, and textural fern or ivy can make a great statement.

Visit our tropical greenhouse for a luscious selection of these exotic beauties and find everything you need to create your own easy 'WOW' piece to dazzle your guests this summer.

# Too Hot Outside? Garden Indoors!

By Carolyn Hestand Kennedy, Advertising & Marketing Manager

When Texas temperatures inevitably rise to uncomfortable levels, our enthusiasm for being outdoors sometimes wanes a bit, even if our love of gardening remains strong. Utilize the summer doldrums to create a tiny world of your own. **Miniature and fairy gardens** bring the satisfying pleasure of digging in the dirt to a climate controlled environment. These personal creations can be whimsical and humorous, meticulously detailed or perhaps specially themed based on a favorite film or book. Much like outdoor gardening, placing your focus on your own little world can be a meditative process which alleviates your mind and lifts your spirits. Part of the fun is searching for interesting **containers** as well as tiny accessories to combine with **small plants,**

**pebbles** and **moss** for a unique creation. Check out NHG's **mini garden accessories** in our gift area and choose small **succulents** or **tropicals** in our greenhouse to get started. Kids enjoy mini gardening, too. Plan one as a home-school project or perhaps as a new way to bond with your grandchildren. The possibilities are endless. Have fun!

**Fairy Gardens: Visitors from the Greener Realm Saturday, August 16th, 10-11:30am.** Create worlds in miniature in this workshop designed for parent and child to have fun together and take home their own unique project. Materials for beginning your piece are included. **Advance registration is required. Call 214-363-5316.**



*Get your creations ready for our annual October contest!*

Scan here to visit [NHG.com](http://NHG.com) for calendar event details



# July-August 2014 Calendar

## NOW is the TIME

- Plan garden work during early morning hours to avoid the heat of the day. Early morning is also the best time for watering—be aware of your local watering restrictions!
- Keep hummingbird feeders and birdbaths cleaned and filled to support these visitors in the heat
- In July, plan and prep your space for seeding wildflowers—seed them in August!
- Have your irrigation system audited to locate any leaks and ensure proper water delivery before your summer vacation.
- Plant heat-loving annuals such as zinnias, pentas, lantana and firebush to keep your color display vibrant. Plant hardy perennials such as yucca, sedum, salvia and aster.
- Plant tomato transplants in early July for fall production and pepper transplants through mid-July for fall production. Direct-seed pumpkins, squash, watermelon, cantaloupe and southern peas.
- Use Gator-bags to help keep newly planted trees and shrubs properly watered. Provide supplemental hand watering to new plants and container plantings several times a week, as needed.
- In August, start seeds of cool season herbs such as dill and cilantro indoors for transplanting into the garden in September and October.
- Plant seed of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, kohlrabi and cauliflower mid-August.
- In mid-August, fertilize and prune roses back by about 20-25% to encourage a fall flush of blooms.
- August is a good time to prune or deadhead many summer blooming perennials such as salvia, black-eyed susan, daylilies and veronica to prolong bloom.



## July 2014

**4th OFF for the 4th sale!**  
**Monday, June 30th**  
**through Sunday, July 6th**



We celebrate Independence Day with our annual week-long sale of 25% off all plants—bedding, greenhouse, nursery—all of them! In-stock plant material only; while supplies last. **Get here early and grab your favorites!**

### July Photo Contest:

**Best Summer Perennials!**  
Visit [NHG.com](http://NHG.com) for details



### Saturday, July 5th

9am-Noon: Bonsai Society of Dallas

11am: POP UP Class: **Hot Season Containers!** Learn to extend your color display through the summer months

1pm-2pm: **Successful Fall Tomatoes**  
Learn to grow a successful crop of tomatoes for fall harvest

### Sunday, July 6th

10am-11:30am: **School of Gardening 102: Introduction to Home Veggie Gardening for Fall!** Join us for this beginner level class focusing on all the basics for starting the home edible garden for the Fall season. **Register today!** Details at [nhg.com](http://nhg.com).

3pm: Greater North Texas Orchid Society

### Saturday, July 19th

1pm-2pm: **Gardening in Difficult Spaces** We all have those areas that are hot and shady, too wet or extremely sunny. Learn how to deal with trouble spots in your home landscape.

### Sunday, July 20th

11am: POP UP Tour: **Water plants and easy water garden features:** Tour our selection of water and bog plants and see how easily you can create an easy water garden feature.



### Saturday, July 26th

10:30am: Herb Society of America

11am: POP UP Tour: **The Tropical Greenhouse:** Visit our cool indoor greenhouse and get an informative, guided tour to find plants for your home and patio.

## August 2014

### Saturday, August 2nd

9am-Noon: Bonsai Society of Dallas

10am: POP UP Class: **Seeding Fall Vegetables**



### Sunday, August 3rd

11am: POP UP Class: **Hot Season Containers!** Learn to extend your color display through the summer months

3pm: Greater North Texas Orchid Society

### Saturday, August 9th

11am-12pm: **Converting to Organics**  
Ever wanted to go 'totally organic' but didn't know how to start? Learn all the basics for conversion in this one hour class. Advance registration required.

11am: POP UP Class: **Hot Season Containers!** Learn to extend your color display through the summer months

### Sunday August 10th

11am-12pm: **Raised Bed Gardening**  
Enjoy a classroom demo of building a raised bed for veggies and herbs. Enjoy a tour of our raised bed demonstration gardens with Q&A afterward

### Saturday, August 16th

10-11:30am: **Fairy Gardens: Visitors from the Greener Realm** Create worlds in miniature in this workshop designed for parent and child to have fun together, and take home their own unique project. Materials for beginning your piece are included. Advance registration is required. Call 214-363-5316

### Sunday, August 17th

11am-12pm: **Drying Out: The Drought Tolerant Landscape** Join us for an in-depth lesson on decreasing the amount you water, choosing drought tolerant plants, and the principles of xeriscaping.

### Saturday, August 23rd

10:30am: Herb Society of America

10am POP UP Demo: **Containers for Shade:** Learn how to use not only annuals, but perennials, shrubs and tropical plants to get dynamic combinations for those difficult shady spots where color might be hard to achieve.





**NHG.com**

7700 Northaven Road, Dallas, TX 75230  
214-363-5316



**4th OFF**  
**for the 4th sale!**  
**Celebrate**  
**Independence Day**  
**with 25% off all plants.**  
**Get here early and**  
**grab your favorites!**

**\$5 Off Your Purchase**  
**of \$10 or more**

Please only one gift certificate  
per customer. Not to be used  
with other offers. Expires 8/31/14  
Cashiers use code 900152

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Philadelphia, PA  
Permit # 5634

Postmaster!  
Please deliver by  
7/1/14

## Water Wise Beauty: Ornamental Grasses

By Sandi Holmes-Schwedler, TCNP, Senior Buyer

As we continue to seek ways to be better environmental stewards and conserve water in the landscape, plants that thrive in hot, dry and poor soils are increasingly valuable. When it comes to designing our gardens, though, we seek plants that do well with little care while still providing movement, sound, and structural interest. Ornamental grasses fit both needs and also provide food and shelter for wildlife. Sounds like a win-win, doesn't it?

There's a mind-boggling array of sizes and colors among ornamental grasses, so I'll highlight a few of my personal favorites: the first is a big grass, **Lindheimer Muhly** (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*). This is the perfect native alternative to Pampas grass! It grows to about 5' tall and about 3' wide at maturity and dazzles with silvery plumes in early fall, usually around mid-October. One additional advantage: this big grass won't cut you to shreds like Pampas grass will—its leaves are much softer.

**Blue grama 'Blonde Ambition'** (*Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition') is another great performer. This cultivar of Bouteloua stands only about a foot tall and features very fine leaves and lovely golden coloration in fall. My favorite part of this grass is the seed heads; they're like little blonde flags waving in the

wind. I love combining it with other perennials in my garden to highlight its light and airy structure, and it won't block the view of the plants behind it.

**Mexican feather grass** (*Nassella tenuissima*) has become a very popular landscape grass over recent years for obvious reasons. Firstly, it stays relatively small (1'-3' at maturity) and has a seductively smooth, fluid texture due to its extremely fine leaves. This stunning grass is native to North America and is at home in a full to part-sun location with very well-drained soil. It's important to plant grasses with other things that have similar water and fertilization needs. Leave grasses alone during winter to enjoy their soft texture and rustling sound, then cut them back around mid-February, when you prune your roses.

There are so many lovely drought tolerant native and adapted ornamental grasses to choose from! Come in to NHG and let us show you how to begin incorporating them into your garden. You won't be sorry!

Learn more at our class on Sunday, August 17th, 11am-12pm: **Drying Out: The Drought Tolerant Landscape** see our events calendar for details.



*Lindheimer Muhly grass*



*Note the horizontal "flags" of the Blue grama grass.*

