

# Every Blooming Thing



Celebrating  
**51**  
Years of Service

March-April 2003

North Haven Gardens Newsletter



## March

**Plant** ornamental trees and shrubs, roses, perennials, herbs, cool-season vegetables, and annuals like geraniums, petunias, snapdragons, alyssum. Plant tomatoes after last frost. Plant begonias now for best results. Plant tender herbs when danger of frost is past.

**Fertilize** now if you didn't do it in February. Use root stimulator on all new plantings.

**Repot and fertilize** water garden plants with tablet fertilizers made for specific water garden use.

**Prune** fruit trees before bud break. Wait to prune spring-flowering shrubs and vines until after flowering.

**Purchase** caladium bulbs while the selection is good! Plant them in May. Store them above 63 degrees.

**Spray** for pests on fruit trees. Use BT for caterpillars. Or **release** Green Lacewings and Trichogramma wasps to control aphids, mites, thrips, and caterpillars.

**Treat** fire ant mounds with bait early in the morning or later in the afternoon when ants begin to forage.

## April

**Plant** warm season annuals and vegetables, summer and fall flowering perennials. Repot houseplants.

Fertilize summer flowering shrubs.

**Spray** for fruit tree pests and black spot on roses.

**Watch** for aphids on new growth. Spray with insecticidal soap or release Ladybugs.

**Use** slug & snail bait or set out beer traps, if needed.

**Release** beneficial nematodes to control ticks, fleas, chiggers, and fire ants.

Check our website for more tips and information: [www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com).

## Roses, Roses, Roses! *by Bob McLaughlin*

Early spring is the time to set the groundwork for buying new roses for the garden and successfully maintaining existing ones. Roses, ideally, require at least six hours of sun and good drainage. (There are some varieties that will tolerate less sun such as Zepherine Drouhin with its pink blooms and nearly thornless canes.) Be certain your plants have enough air circulation; don't plant directly against a wall.

Try roses in containers for a change! Fifteen-gallon-size containers are great for roses. They are large enough to accommodate all but some of the largest climbers. North Haven Gardens carries large decorative containers as well as several mixed rose soils that make planting rose containers easy. Put a couple inches of mulch or screen in the bottom of the container to prevent soil from washing out and to facilitate drainage.

Roses need about two inches of water a week. During extremely hot weather, roses in container will need more water. Drip irrigation or soaker hoses water deeply and minimize evaporative loss. If a sprinkler system is used, water early in the morning allowing the foliage time to dry in the daylight. Frequent light water applications will result in shallow root systems, which creates a greater susceptibility to drought damage. Water deeply when you water, and use lots of mulch in your gardens.

For spraying roses for pests, keep it as easy as possible. When the label says, "1 teaspoon per gallon" then use *exactly* that much. *More is not better*. If you decide to use chemicals, call us at North Haven for suggestions for your specific need.

Try a slow-release fertilizer such as *Carl Pool Acid Rose Food* early in the spring, followed by a monthly alfalfa-based fertilizer like *Rose Glow*. Try a new fertilizer on a small sample of roses before you do all your roses; and follow the instructions carefully.

Remember: Garden safely. Wear protective clothing where necessary; and, if in doubt, then *Wear It!* Organic sprays and fertilizers as well as chemical ones can be harmful. Read labels and follow them. When working with roses, wear gloves. North Haven

Gardens carries the newest rose gloves with large, long cuffs in attractive colors among other garden glove selections.



**Join us for our Rose Weekend, March 8 and 9.** Local rose society members will be here to help with your rose questions and selections. And don't forget to try some of the Earthkind™ roses that Texas A&M suggests for our Texas gardens — *Belinda's Dream*, *Climbing Pinkie*, *Knock Out*, *Katy Road Pink* (pictured at left), *The Fairy*, *Sea Foam*, *Else Poulsen*, *Mutabilis*, *Perle d'Or*, *Caldwell Pink* or *Marie Daly*. These are great selections, and we will have them all here at North Haven Gardens in March.

## *Salvia Greggii* — A Stunning Beauty for a Texas Garden *by Judy Fender*

*Salvia greggii* (Autumn Sage) begins the spring season as a quiet semi-evergreen in the garden. After the stunning spring display by all the garden 'show-offs', *Salvia greggii* takes its turn in the summer garden, exploding in a profusion of colorful blooms that delight garden visitors through fall. This sun-loving, woody-stemmed drought-tolerant perennial is a favorite of butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds — all of which pollinate other plants in your garden while amusing you with their aerial antics. *Salvia greggii* can be found in all colors — white, yellow, pink, coral, red, blue, purple, magenta, and the vibrant 'raspberry'! Trim it back infrequently to encourage long-lasting flushes of colorful blooms.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, March 8 and 9 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.**  
**"Rose Weekend!"**

Meet the area Rose Societies, ask questions, pick up educational info about the best roses to grow in this area!



**Saturday, March 15 — 1:30 p.m.**  
**"Tool Time!"** Tom Wilten, Charles Thompson  
*presented by First Men's Garden Club of Dallas*

**SPRING FESTIVAL - March 23 and 24**

**Saturday, March 22 — 1:30 p.m.**  
**"The Best Blooming Colors for Texas"**  
 Bobbi Benson, a Master Gardener

**Sunday, March 23 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**"Enhancing Garden Chi with Color"**  
 Laurel Schelling, Feng Shui Consultant

**FREE GARDEN CONSULTATIONS**  
 with our Landscape/Garden Consultants

**First-come, first-served for 15-minute free garden consultations with our experts! Bring photos, plot plan (if you have one), and drawings or ideas that you want incorporated into your landscaping.**

**March 22 appointments: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**March 23 appointments: 12 noon to 3 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 29 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**"Honey Bees & Pollination"**

**Shirley Acevedo & Terry Wood, Bee Keepers**  
 Learn about these amazing creatures that contribute to our world through pollination & their by-products.

**Saturday, April 5 — 1:30 p.m.**  
**"Flowers & Herbs that Heal"** Dr. Judy Griffin  
 After the lecture, Dr. Griffin will sign copies of her new book, have her Herbal Products available, and answer additional herbal questions.

**Sunday, April 6 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**"Butterflies and the Plants that Attract Them"**  
 Dale Clark, Lepidopterist  
 Dallas County Lepidopterist Society



**Saturday, April 12 -- 1:30 p.m.**  
**"Daylilies" with Jerry Arledge**  
*presented by the First Men's Garden Club of Dallas*

**Saturday, April 19 - 9 a.m. until sold out!**  
**Daylily Sale!** *presented by Daylily Growers of Dallas*

### Herb Festival!

**Meet the Herb Societies! Learn about Herbs!**

**Saturday, April 26 - 10:00 a.m.**

**"Meet the Experts" is a 'Q&A' about Herbs**

**Saturday, April 26 - 1:30 p.m.**

**"Culinary Herbs" Rosa Schachle, Herbalist**

**Sunday, April 27 - 1:30**

**"Landscaping with Herbs" - Don Miller, North Haven Gardens' Horticulturist**

## 'Wednesday at Noon'

Join us for lunch and a special interest lecture once a month on Wednesday (12 noon to about 2 p.m.). The **March 19th luncheon/lecture** will feature **"Roses in the Landscape Garden."** **April 16th** will introduce ideas for **"Creating Interest in Your Shade Garden."** Take a break from your busy day to enjoy lunch and an interesting garden program; leave with new ideas and information for your garden's success. *Reservation required; luncheon charge.* Limited seating; reservation forms (with menu selections) are in the store or can be printed from our website: [www.nhg.com](http://www.nhg.com).

## NEW! Demonstrations Every Saturday at 11



Stop by our **Information Desk at 11 a.m. every Saturday morning** for free 10-minute demonstrations by our staff. March/April topics will cover *Transplanting Basics, Tree Selection, Potting & Care/African Violets, Tying a Climbing Rose, Planting a Hanging Basket, Birdfeeder Stations, and Container Roses.* Pick up some new "how to" and "what to do" ideas. It's 10 minutes of quick tips for successful gardening shared by our staff experts *especially for you.*

## Grow Veggies in Containers!

Try growing vegetables in containers this season! They are great for the small or patio garden. Shallow-rooted leafy vegetables such as lettuce or chard can be mixed with flowers or herbs in containers 8" deep. Containers that are 8-12" deep will accommodate onions, radishes, spinach, [short] carrots, zucchini, and beets. Select larger containers (16-18" deep) for plants such as tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, melons, and squash. Some will need trellising from their 12" deep containers in order for vines to have room to grow, such as beans, cucumbers, peas. North Haven Gardens carries a wide selection of trellises and containers suitable for growing your veggies.

Use fertile and well-draining potting soil. Don't overcrowd plants in the containers. Use a fertilizer with as much or more **nitrogen (14-14-14)** as phosphorus for 'leafy' crops. Use a fertilizer with lower **nitrogen (5-10-10)** for 'fruiting' crops such as beans, tomatoes, and peppers. Keep your plants moist, but not wet in the containers. Remember, no pesticides! You are going to eat these! Ask our staff for assistance if you have pest problems.

Most veggies will like full sun, but some (parsley, kale, mustard greens, lettuce) will tolerate a bit of filtered shade.

Pick an attractive container or two, and experiment with vegetables this year!

Remember, tomatoes make *great* container plants! Get growing!



## The Joy of Dill!

Dill is a great culinary herb to add to your garden. You can eat the leaves (called dillweed), the seeds, and the flowers, too! Dill has a long taproot; it does not do well in a pot or transplanted once established. Sow seed directly in the garden or start with a 4-inch pot. It likes sun and moist, but well-drained soil. Dill can grow tall (2-4' in ideal conditions); give it space!

Plant an extra one or two plants to attract butterflies — swallowtails love it. (*Attend our April 6th lecture about butterflies!*) If you see green, yellow, and black-striped caterpillars on your dill, they will develop eventually into Swallowtail butterflies — after they have munched your dill plant. Don't use pesticides on your dill! The leaves will grow back. Harvest dill leaves with scissors, cutting close to the stem. Seeds can be used in cooking, too.

Dill adds zip to pasta, tossed salads, eggs, cottage cheese, and tomatoes. Add it to white sauces, butters, fish, chicken steamed vegetables, and bread recipes! When cooking with dill, add it at the end of the cooking process to keep its flavor fresh. Dill is a good salt substitute with fresh vegetables. *Learn more about herbs during our Herb Weekend — April 26 and 27th.* Meet herb experts and pick up tips while making your plant selections.

## Spring into Lawn Care!

by David Reznik, Horticulturalist

The most effective way to a lovely lawn is establishing and maintaining healthy and vigorous growth. A healthy lawn will most always keep weeds to a minimum, but a little bit of help is always appreciated.

First, applying a **pre-emergent** between **mid-February to mid-March** will prevent those obnoxious weeds from germinating in the first place. North Haven Gardens recommends *Betasan*, *Portrait*, and *Treflan*, as well as organic *Corn Gluten*. You might want to try the ready-to-spray liquid, *Weed Stopper "Hose 'em"* containing Surflan. Surflan maybe the most effective pre-emergent available.

Second, **fertilizing** your lawn at the proper time, with the appropriate fertilizer, at the correct rates will result in a beautiful green lawn that will be strong and healthy enough to stand up to our Texas summers. **Apply a high nitrogen fertilizer** just after you see signs of your lawn "greening up," usually during **mid-to late March**. Choose a quality fertilizer with approximately 50% of its nitrogen in a slow-release form. *North Havens' 6-3-0 Organic*, *Bradfield*, and *Texas Tea* are great choices. Avoid fertilizers with high levels of phosphorous, which tends to build up in our clay soils. Always follow the application instructions on the bag.

When your lawn requires its first cutting for the year, be sure not to cut too short. Mow to a height of about 2" in spring, then raise your lawn mower ½" to 1" in the summer. Don't forget to change the oil in your mower and sharpen the blade, and you'll be ready to go!

## Let's Go Organic! by Carolyn Oldham

Want to liven up your lawn, perk up your perennials and fire up your flowers? Go organic in 2003! If you're ready to make the switch, here's how to get started:

1. Use 100% organic fertilizers on your lawn, flower beds, vegetable garden and houseplants. North Haven Gardens carries at least 10 different brands composed of all natural ingredients that read like a who's who of organic matter (poultry manure, alfalfa meal, cottonseed meal, bat guano, seaweed, fish meal, et cetera). Sounds yummy if you're a microbe in the soil! Remember: It's the microbes that feed the soil, and the soil that feeds the plants. Soil tests reveal the need for slow-release nitrogen (the first number on the bag) and low amounts of phosphorus and potassium (the 2nd and 3rd numbers). That's exactly what organic fertilizers provide.
2. Add liberal amounts of quality compost (3"-6") in all bed preparation. The simple addition of organic matter (compost) will encourage lots of microbial activity in the soil. Healthy soil makes healthy plants. Compost helps our Dallas clay hold moisture at the right level and promotes better drainage. *Living Earth*, *Back to Earth*, *Hu-More*, and *Mushroom Compost* are all good choices.
3. Mulch, mulch, mulch. This final critical step is often overlooked. Using a 2"-3" layer of shredded mulch moderates soil temperature (warmer in winter, cooler in summer), maintains soil moisture (critical in winter and summer), controls weed growth and adds more organic matter to the soil as it breaks down. Best choices are shredded cedar, hardwood, cypress, and pine straw (this one may help control slugs).
4. Plant a diverse mixture of trees, shrubs, ground covers, ornamental grasses, annuals, perennials and herbs. By reducing the percentage of lawn (the highest maintenance plant in the landscape) and replacing it with mixed borders in a layered fashion, many beneficial insects (parasitic flies and wasps, lacewings, ladybugs, assassin bugs, et cetera) and pest-eating birds will be attracted. Pesticide use should practically be nil, and the garden will be alive with lots of fascinating creatures. We strive to offer the very best in plant material to help you add this natural diversity.

Four simple steps and no rocket science! Let us help you go organic in 2003!

### Add an Extra Surprise to Easter Baskets

Tuck a 4" pot of snapdragons, violets, or dianthus into your child's Easter basket this year along with the traditional candy and eggs! Delight them with something they can plant in their *own* garden or in a container to enjoy. Add a small pair of garden gloves and maybe a hand trowel. Now's a great time to get them interested in gardening!



Don't have a **GROWCARD?**

— NEW STORE HOURS Beginning March 8th —

Monday through Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**North Haven Gardens**  
**7700 Northaven Road**  
**Dallas, TX 75230**  
**(214) 363-5316**  
 Address Correction  
 Requested



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

Lectures, Plant Lists & 'Saturday Demos'  
 'Wednesday at Noon' Lunch & Lecture  
 Spring Festival • Herb Weekend  
 And So Much More!



Gift Ideas, Books, Containers  
 Garden Tools, Bulbs, Organics  
 Seeds, Gift Certificates

## SOCIETY MEETINGS AT NORTH HAVEN GARDENS

Call the club to confirm the meeting —  
 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 Saturday, April 26, 3 to 5 p.m.

**Dallas Organic Garden Club**  
 214-732-5504  
 Meets Thursday, April 24 at 6:45 p.m.

**Dallas Rose Society** 972-234-5184  
 Meets the fourth Friday at 6:30 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.

**Hosta Society** 214-363-6715 x333  
 Call to confirm meeting date and time.

**Iris Society** 972-231-9594  
 Meets Sunday, March 16, 3 to 5 p.m.

**Southwestern Fern Society**  
 972-241-6480  
 Meets the second Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m.

## *The Gardener's Gift Corner* by Betty Hargrave

With the arrival of Spring, new goodies for the garden arrive each day. Come see! Garden art is a popular gift idea for every garden no matter the size. Whimsical whirling copper pin wheels create memories of childhood in the garden. One even has lights around the edge as it whirls *without a battery!*

Add color and design to your garden with our new hand-blown glazing globes of optic designs. The beautiful color combinations are spectacular. Hand-blown lily butterfly feeders supported on spiral copper holders also make colorful accents. Container gardeners will delight using colorful watering globes that can be filled with water and inverted into containers to add water slowly. Colorful hand-blown glass 'sun petals' supported on scrolled copper stakes make another whimsical addition to any garden.

A new design of scrolled wrought iron with colored glass inserts transforms the rain gauge and garden thermometer into garden art. Bird baths and feeding trays have never been more interesting and architectural. The new Crane, Peacock, and Calla Lily are so unusual and dramatic, they are a 'must see.'

A gift basket of summer-blooming bulbs — lilies and their summer friends — come back and multiply each year, so the joy continues. African Violet enthusiasts will want several of our ceramic self-watering pots in various styles, shapes, sizes and colors. These unusual, beautiful, and useful containers are located in our Greenhouse.

Water with your favorite flowers! Select from our new 'blooming' water wands — tulips, irises, daffodils, and daisies, among others in this new "tool" collection.

Update your patio or garden room with new containers! Select from the many new colors, sizes, and designs we have recently stocked. Add a touch of traditional Italian elegance with Tuscan-themed containers — fruit and leaves embossed on creamy ivory ceramic cache pots, handled baskets, and large oval tubs. Add whimsical creatures from the Carruth Collection to the patio. The bunnies, turtles, and whimsical frogs are irresistible! And don't forget Gift Certificates! They always make the perfect gift.



Check our ad each Friday  
 in the Dallas Morning News'  
 Living / House & Garden  
 section for lectures,  
 events, and sales.



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## *Can't be with your Loved Ones on Easter?*

Send a beautiful arrangement to wish them a Happy Easter in your absence! Brighten someone's day with fresh flowers. Don't wait to show your appreciation. Our floral designers are extremely creative and can design something unique so that the wishes you send with a floral gift will always be remembered.

Contact our Floral Designers at 214-691-6751  
 to create a unique floral gift for that special person.



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