



Pocket Prairies

Do you dream of a Texas landscape that looks beautiful and sustains itself without a lot of help? Consider a Pocket Prairie! We can take a number of cues from the type of landscape that was already here in Dallas-Fort Worth before the area was settled.

What is a pocket prairie? A miniature wildscape that mimics the closely planted native grasses and self-sowing wildflowers that work together in a harmonious mix in a typical prairie. From a distance, prairies might look to you like a vast sea of grass, but a closer look shows intermingled perennials that come and go with the seasons, supporting a huge number of insect and bird species. With amazingly deep root systems, many of these plants help to improve and stabilize our sometimes challenging soils.

If you've ever used the easy-to-remember "Thriller, Filler & Spiller" formula for planting containers, you can easily translate that into your pocket prairie recipe. Use groups of tall plants, bushy ones, as well as groundcover types to form a close-knit community that works together to protect bare soil and provide seasonal interest. Allow wildflowers to go to seed and add additional seed each year, as

needed, to fill in gaps. This is not a type of landscape that can be installed over a weekend, but once established, it can sustain itself with very little water and minimal maintenance.

Learn @ Lunch: Texas Wildflowers

Thursday, July 20

12-1pm

\$15 for the class & lunch

Pocket Prairies

with Pat Merkord of Native
Prairies Association of Texas

Saturday, July 22

10-11:30am Free

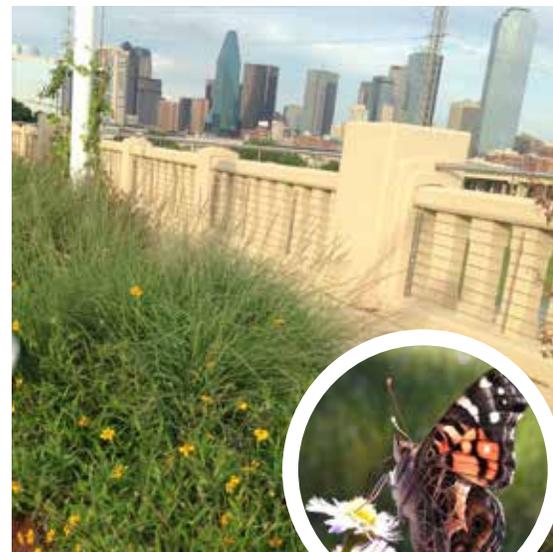
Planting the Pocket Prairie

with Matt White

Sunday, August 27

1-2pm Free

Clockwise from above: Monarda and Rudbeckia sow themselves each year in the front beds of NHG. Plantings on the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, which spans the Trinity River near downtown Dallas, are pocket sized examples of how prairies can inspire groups of tough plants that look great and withstand intense Texas heat. Milkweed (Asclepias viridis), the host plant for Monarch butterflies, sets seeds that are dispersed by wind.





Specialty Bearded Iris Arrive in August

By Cody Hoya, General Manager and Iris Fanatic

Images courtesy of Schreiner's Gardens



'Dramatic Style'



'Violet Turner'



'Got The Melody'



'Kaligazam'



'Belgian Princess'



'Abiqua Falls'



'Blutique'



'Final Episode'



'Petit Tigre'



'Angelwalker'



'Red Masterpiece'



'Graph'



'Chariots of Fire'



'Moonlit Water'



'Frimousse'

Our specialty bearded iris collection presents an opportunity for experienced collectors and new gardeners alike. If you currently grow bearded iris, you probably love them for their evergreen, drought-tolerant foliage, luxurious spring blooms and easy care attitude. If you don't have any in your garden, consider one (or more!) of the following to add some 'wow' factor to any sunny garden location with good drainage: If you're craving a splash of red, consider **'Red Masterpiece'**, a tall variety reaching up to

40" in bloom with up to 9 blossoms per stem. Connoisseurs of form, color and style will appreciate this luxuriously iridescent specimen. **'Chariots of Fire'** offers vivid, tangerine-peach blossoms on another tall variety. The brightly ruffled petals pale to creamy white at the centers, showcasing its bright tangerine beards. For those seeking something smaller, **'Graph'** is a standard dwarf variety that reaches just 14" in bloom and offers a pronounced sweet fragrance. Pale, lime-yellow standards appear

stitched in blue, with beards appearing medium blue dusted with tangerine. If you're in search of a specialty hybrid that's a truly unique jewel, **'Moonlit Water'** delivers deep, lavender-violet shadings overlaying a white background. It's a large, reliable bloomer that reaches 36" and appears to be lit from within. See these and many more arriving at NHG in early August. Iris rhizomes are easy to plant, easy to care for, and provide decades of luxurious bloom with minimal input.

ArtFocus Collective

Gallery Reception Friday, July 21st from 5-7 pm

A free, casual reception to view the latest collection and meet the artists in person. Work is on view and available for purchase until September 1st. Right: 'Citrus II' by Naomi Brotherton.



Visit NHG.com for class and event details and registration

July-August 2017

Plants for Pollinators

with NHG's Dana Wilson
Saturday, July 8
1-2:30pm
Free



Growing Orchids

with orchid expert Gina Woods
Saturday, July 8
10-11:30 am
Free



History of Texas Botany

Southwestern Fern Society with
Barney Lipscomb, Botanical
Research Institute
of Texas **Free**
Sunday, July 9
2:30-4:30pm



Plant Propagation Workshop

Garden Masters, Inc.
\$25: Cash or check
at the door.
Saturday, July 15
9:30-11:30am



Learn @ Lunch: Texas Wildflowers

\$15 for the class
& lunch
Thursday, July 20
12-1pm



Painting Workshop with Wine: Van Gogh's Road Menders

\$65 with artist
Melanie Brannan
Sunday, July 30
2-4pm



Pocket Prairies

with Pat Merkord of Native
Prairies Association of Texas
Saturday, July 22
10-11:30am
Free



Workshop: Macrame and Mimosas

with artist Sonali Khatti
\$65 All supplies
included
Saturday, August 12
10-11:30am



Succulent Landscapes

Saturday, August 26
10-11am
with Irwin Lightstone
Free



Learn @ Lunch: Bearded Irises

\$15 for the class
& lunch
Thursday, August 17
12-1pm



Watercolor Workshop: Bearded Irises

\$50 plus basic supplies with
artist Marian Hirsch
Sunday, August 20
2-4pm



Planting the Pocket Prairie

with Matt White
Sunday, August 27
1-2pm
Free



Kids Workshops

Kids Carnivorous Plants Workshop

Wednesday, July 19
9:30-11am \$30

Kids Fairy and Miniature Gardens

Wednesday, July 26
9:30-11am \$30

Kids Pottery Workshop

with artist Dee Mayes
Wednesday, July 12
9:30-11am \$35

Kids Story Time in the Gardens

Wednesday, July 26
1-3pm **Free**

Kids Workshop: My First Herb Pot

Wednesday, July 12
1-2:30pm \$30



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Chic Home Plant Care

By Carolyn Hestand Kennedy, Marketing Manager & Occasional Plant Killer

Have a brown thumb? Are you struggling to keep plants alive indoors? Dead plants ruining your Boho Chic decor? Here's a few tips to get your plants to thrive in your design scheme.

Let there be light

Plants don't live indoors in nature. Though we want them as part of our stylish look, we have to try and give them something resembling their natural habitat. They may not necessarily thrive on your floating wall shelf or living room coffee table and they definitely won't survive in your dark bathroom. Group your plants near a window in the brightest room in your home. Move them to decorative locations for a dinner party or gathering of friends, but then let them live most days where they will receive the best light exposure.

Don't love too much

Did you know that most people over water their indoor plants? They do! They water WAAAYYY too often. Plant roots need oxygen as well as water so they need a good drink then some time to breathe.

A myth has been perpetuated that many people seem to believe: water plants once a week.

Here's the thing, plants are specialized living

organisms that do not have a default setting or a schedule. Each species, each container, each location and each type of soil you plant in has different qualities which will affect the amount of water the plant needs.

Water like a boss

If at all possible, take your plants on a little walk - to a bathtub, sink or outside where you can soak the heck out of them. You cannot water too much, just too often. Allow water to run through and drain out the bottom at least 3 times or more. Splash the leaves and get rid of any accumulated dust. Plants LOVE this! Now WAIT until they really, really need water again. Each plant will have its own timing. If you're not sure, wait another day... or another WEEK in many cases.

Careful with cute

That adorable container you found at an estate sale? Does it have a drainage hole in the bottom? If not proceed with extreme caution! Remember how plants need to breathe? If there is no way for water to drain out, it's very difficult for the roots to get the oxygen they need.



You got this

There is actually no such thing as a green thumb. You basically have to decide to care. If you take the time, you can learn to happily cohabitate with all kinds of plants that will reward you with cool aesthetics and clean air. Just show them a little interest and soon you will get to know what they prefer.