



Gardener's Gazette

FEBRUARY 2011

Gardening Q&A

Q: I did not plant cool-weather annuals this fall but now I wish I had. Is there anything I can plant to bloom now? – DDA, San Antonio

A: Fortunately, in these parts, there are a number of annuals to fill the bill. Pansies, cyclamen, stocks and primula will bloom from now until May. Dianthus and snapdragons may have stopped blooming for now, but will start again later this month and continue through May. Trim dianthus back after a flush of blooms in April and it could bloom until mid-June. Gerber daisies and geraniums can be spectacular in containers this time of year, but will have to be protected from freezing weather.

E-mail your questions to help@schulznursery.net and we'll answer them in Gardener's Gazette.

Remember Your Valentine With a Gift from Schulz

Valentine's Day

on February 14 is the perfect time to honor your sweetheart with a gift of greenery. From flowering shrubs to houseplants to beautiful pots, fountains and yard ornaments, Schulz Nursery has the gifts to make loved ones swoon.

Schulz staff can provide you with great gift ideas along with helpful information on selections.



Primrose Jasmine is Elegant, Fragrant

By Peter Garza



An old-fashioned beauty, primrose jasmine is often seen in older neighborhoods around these parts. With its fragrant, trumpet-shaped, yellow flowers, its arching, fountain-like growth habit and its hardy tolerance to our soil and climate, primrose jasmine (*Jasminum mesnyi*) is a striking addition to the landscape.

With blooms that emerge as early as February and continue sporadically into summer, this fast-growing shrub can become a 5- to 10-foot mound if left unpruned, although it tolerates severe pruning. It is considered an excellent xeriscape plant and is considered deer-resistant, and it has few problems with diseases or pests. Primrose jasmine will thrive in shade but blooms best with at least half a day of sun.

This elegantly shaped, semi-evergreen shrub makes a lovely privacy hedge and is spectacular when allowed to cascade down a slope or over a wall or terrace. A native of China, it also is useful for erosion control on slopes, where its trailing stems will take root.

If you prune primrose jasmine, do so soon after it finishes flowering, since flowers bloom on the previous season's growth. Remove old, woody canes to ground level and cut



Primrose jasmine is tolerant of heat and drought, with yellow blooms that emerge in spring. Photo by Bri Weldon

back shoots to a bud or lower shoot.

Peter Garza is the store manager at Schulz Nursery on Broadway. He will be happy to answer questions about all aspects of landscaping.

Purple Blooms Adorn This Hardy Texas Native

By Kristy Hoffman



Texas mountain laurel, also known as mesquite bean, frijolito, frijolillo and even big-drunk bean, is a much-loved small native tree or large shrub found in the wild from central Texas west to New Mexico and south to San Luis Potosi in Mexico.

A handsome landscape specimen with glossy, dark green leaves, the evergreen Texas mountain laurel is best known for its magnificent lavender or purple flowers that appear in early spring in drooping clusters that smell strongly of grape bubble gum. Many local folks recall from childhood its glossy, hard, bright red, jellybean-size seeds that grow warm when rubbed vigorously on the sidewalk, although children should be reminded that both seeds and flowers are poisonous.

With the scientific name *Sophora secundiflora*, Texas mountain laurel will grow from 15 to 35 feet tall. It can be left to grow naturally as a multi-trunk shrub or pruned into a single-trunk tree. Not a fast grower, Texas mountain laurel fits nicely into smaller spaces and is extremely tolerant of heat and drought.

Native Americans used the seeds, which grow in semi-woody pods, for ornaments and ceremonies, and the sapwood was used to make yellow dye.



Native Texas mountain laurel is a handsome small tree or large shrub. Photo by Inga Mun/Creative Commons

Plant mountain laurels in well-drained soil where they will receive full sun to light shade, and handle the root balls carefully to minimize transplant shock. Do not fertilize mountain laurel with nitrogen; it could kill the plant. Use green sand instead.

Kristy Hoffman is the store manager at Schulz Nursery in Marion. Ask Kristy about this and other great landscape plants.

Farmers' Almanac: Valentine Birds

"Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire."



Schulz Nursery is pleased to offer Soil Mender Products at our stores. Visit www.soilmender.com.

With Soil Mender Products, growing natural is more than a fad, it's simply the best way to grow. Safe for your family and pets, our products build a strong soil foundation to grow healthy plants with less work from you. They also protect the environment around you.

Soil Mender Tomato & Vegetable Food 2.5-5-5
In 3.5 lb shakers and 5 lb, 12 lb, and 30 lb bags. Tomato & Vegetable Food nourishes all tomatoes and vegetables for healthier plants, more fruit and stronger roots. With alfalfa meal, manure compost, rock phosphate, cottonseed meal, wormcastings, potash, granite sand, basalt, humate and more. Tasty tomatoes and veggies naturally!

Hu-Max Turf Soil Builder 1-1-1
In 40 lb bags. Hu-Max Turf Soil Builder is a rich blend of aged humus mixed with essential supplements to form a nutritional soil for turf. Perfect for damaged and bare spots, new grass or adding organic matter to stressed lawns, Hu-Max encourages deeper, stronger roots to reduce watering frequency and resist disease and insects.



Yum Yum Mix 2-1-1 In 4.5 lb shakers, 5 lb, 12 lb, 25 lb & 40 lb bags. An all-purpose soil conditioner and fertilizer, Yum Yum Mix is a premium blend of organic alfalfa meal, cottonseed meal, greensand, kelp meal, rock phosphate, humate and molasses. Safe and vegetarian approved! Perfect for all annuals, perennials, vegetables, lawns, trees and shrubs.

Soil Mender Plant Wash
In 1 qt ready-to-spray bottles, 1 qt and 1 gal concentrate bottles. Plant Wash is designed to cleanse plants for optimum health. Improves hygiene and photosynthesis, treats damaged tissue, and prevents diseases, pathogens and damaging insects. "Great for crape myrtle with powdery mildew, roses with blackspot, citrus with sooty mold and other pests." – Howard Garrett, "Dirt Doctor."

Learn to Grow!

Join us for our free seminars in February:

Rose Seminar, with the San Antonio Rose Society, will cover spring cleanup and pruning with a Q&A on spraying and feeding, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Feb. 12, Schulz on Broadway.

Fruit Tree Clinic with David Rodriguez, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Horticulturist and Master Gardener Coordinator for Bexar County, 2-4 p.m. Feb. 12, Schulz in Marion.

Rose Seminar, with the San Antonio Rose Society, will cover spring cleanup and pruning with a Q&A on spraying and feeding, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Feb. 19, Schulz in Marion.

All About Pruning with David Rodriguez, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Horticulturist and Master Gardener Coordinator for Bexar County, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Feb. 19, Schulz on Broadway.

Garden Answers with David Rodriguez, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Horticulturist and Master Gardener Coordinator for Bexar County. Bring your questions, samples and photos, 12-1 p.m. Feb. 19, Schulz on Broadway.



Pruning Season: Early Spring is Time for Cleaning Up Trees, Shrubs, Roses



From Valentine's Day to early March, it's pruning time for many trees and shrubs, particularly roses and oak trees. Probably the most important thing to keep in mind when pruning is to err on the side of caution.

Trees and shrubs should be pruned for specific reasons: to train the plant; to maintain plant health; to improve the quality of flowers, fruit, foliage or stems; to restrict growth; and to protect people and property. If you are not confident in your ability to tackle pruning successfully, get help from a professional. We don't recommend that anyone but a professional take on the task of pruning high or heavy limbs.

For most trees and shrubs, start by removing all dead, broken,

diseased or problem limbs or branches by cutting them at the point of origin or back to a strong side branch or shoot. Next, make any training cuts needed by cutting back side branches to develop a desired shape, to fill in an open spot caused by storm damage or to restrict the plant's size. Avoid destroying the natural shape of the plant, and the general rule of thumb is to remove no more than one-third of the plant.

For oak trees, it is critical to remember to paint every cut with pruning paint to avoid oak wilt disease. Learn more about pruning trees and shrubs at www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/landscape/pruning/pruning.html.

With roses, begin by removing old, dead or non-productive canes and sucker growth. Remove twiggy growth on the remaining canes. Now, open up the middle of the bush for good air circulation to prevent insects and disease. Finally, prune each cane back to a dormant bud. The result should be a rose bush about 18 to 24 inches tall with 4 to 8 canes. Learn more about pruning roses at www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/roses/rose.html.

The second most important thing to remember about pruning is to refrain from pruning flowering trees and shrubs that bloom on last year's growth until after they have finished blooming. Some of these include redbuds, forsythia species, honeysuckle, Indian hawthorn, azaleas, rhododendrons, viburnum species and many climbing and rambling roses.

Stop Weeds Before They Start

By Trace Hazlett



Pre-emergent weed killers are like insurance – you don't know when you'll need it until it's too late. Pre-emergent herbicides stop weeds from coming up from seeds – the easiest way to control them.

Pre-emergents should be used in late January to early March and again in late September to early November, though there's no wrong time to start. Choose the product most suited to your needs:

Amaze and XL 2G control our usual weeds and can be used in flowerbeds without harming existing flowers (unless you want the flowers to re-seed). They can also slow the growth of unwanted Bermuda grass, killing seeds and deterring growth from rhizomes to allow post-emergent controls to work better. They will also control sticker burs with an additional application in late May or June.

Amaze will cover up to 4,000 square feet; XL 2G will cover 20,000 square feet, and is more economical for large areas.

Portrait is most effective for broadleaf weed control and covers a larger spectrum of broadleaf weeds than most. It's best for clover and dandelions but does not kill grassy weeds. Portrait will cover up to 2,100 square feet.

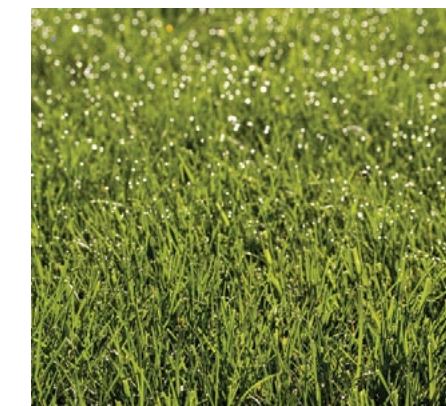
Dimension does not treat as many broadleaf weeds as Portrait but kills many more grasses, including crabgrass. It treats up to 5,000 square feet.

Organic gardeners can use corn gluten, made by both Nature's Guide and Soil Mender. It also contains some natural nitrogen for quick greening. Its

effects last about a month, so more treatments will be required for control.

Regular use of pre-emergents in conjunction with a post-emergent herbicide will eliminate both current and future weed issues in a short time. Once the existing problem is solved, the pre-emergent needs to continue on schedule to insure weed seeds don't blow in and start all over again. Read and follow label directions.

Trace Hazlett is the operations manager for Schulz Nursery. He'll be happy answer your questions about lawn care.



Water droplets sparkle on a healthy Bermuda grass lawn. Photo by Woodley Wonderworks

Garden-Ville

ORGANIC SPECIALIST SINCE 1957

Try any of these great products now available at both our Marion and San Antonio stores. Visit www.garden-ville.com.

Organically grown herbs, fruits and vegetables are more nutritious than their chemically grown counterparts and have superior taste. Organic gardeners don't want to ingest or feed their family foods that contain chemicals from pesticides.

Garden-Ville Manure Compost - All-purpose blend of vegetative material and manures. Ideal for conditioning the soil. A blend of stable bedding, horse manure, hay horse feed, vegetable matter and liquids. \$5.99 for 1-cubic-ft. bag.

Garden-Ville Garrett Juice - A special foliar plant food and root stimulator designed by "The Dirt Doctor," Howard Garrett, to use in foliar sprays. Ideal for all plants and turf grasses. \$11.99 for 1 qt.

Garden-Ville Living Mulch - A blend of well-made compost and native tree trimmings for extra beneficial microbes and nutrients to feed and mulch plants at the same time. \$3.99 for 2-cubic-ft. bag.

Garden-Ville Potting Soil - Evolved over 30 years of use by many growers, each making suggestions for how to make it drain better, last longer, cost less, grow better, useful for a broad variety of plants. Contains peat moss, coir, rice hulls, compost, iron-rich red sand and more. Use for potting, flower beds and raised-bed gardens. \$9.99 for 1-cubic-ft. bag.

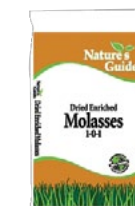
Garden-Ville Lava Sand - Volcanic, paramagnetic, mineral-rich sand. Use anywhere coarse sand is needed to increase drainage. Amount may vary depending on drainage needs. Helps keep moisture in the soil during drought. \$18.99 for 40 lbs.

Nature's Guide

GO GREEN TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Try these fine products, now available at Schulz Nursery. Visit us at www.natures-guide.com or on Facebook. Kid, pet and planet friendly!

Just look for the **Nature's Guide** family of products. Here are a few products to get your garden off to the start it needs. Veggies love organic!



Nature's Guide Dried Enriched Molasses 1-0-1 is a liquid molasses that is sprayed on twice to a soybean hull, then air-dried to ensure optimum biological and microbial activity is available to your plants, and it's easy to spread. Dark, rich in color, wonderful aroma. Use on all plants in your garden, flowerbeds or yard.

Nature's Guide Root Stimulator stimulates early root development and beneficial soil micro-organisms, increasing the efficiency of nutrient uptake from the soil and improving soil structure over time. Nature's Guide Root Stimulator can also hasten plant growth processes and reduces transplant shock. A quart makes up to 20 gallons and a gallon makes up to 75 gallons.

Nature's Guide Turf Food 4-3-2 provides a simple and responsible way to naturally nourish plants with the macro and micro nutrients they need to thrive. A premium formulation based on dried heat pasteurized poultry litter. The compact granules are packed with soil building nutrients and are easy to apply with your broadcast or drop spreader. Will not burn!

Nature's Guide Corn Gluten Meal Spreadable is a non-selective, natural, pre-emergent herbicide that feeds turf as it prevents germination of broadleaf weeds and annual and perennial grasses. Inhibits the feeder development of germinating seeds of crabgrass, dandelions, quackgrass and other weeds. The nitrogen will release slowly and feed turf and plants up to three months. Do not apply to newly seeded areas or areas to be seeded.

When used as directed, these products will not burn or harm beneficial insects, soil organisms, aquatic species or wildlife in your landscape.








SCHULZ
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Gardener's Calendar

February 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
By the moon, best planting dates Above-ground crops: 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 23, 24 Root crops: 1, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28 Flowers: 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 Kill weeds, pests: 3, 4, 16, 17, 18, 19			You can still plant cool-season annuals now for late-winter and early-spring color.		Use Miracle-Gro Muracid for houseplant foliage color.	Keep bird baths and feeders clean and full.
Prune trees and shrubs this month.	Divide cannas, mallows, fall asters, mums, coneflowers and perennial salvias before spring growth begins.		Fertilize winter annuals with Super Bloom.			Rose Seminar, SA Rose Society, 10-12, Broadway. Fruit Tree Clinic, David Rodriguez, 2-4, Marion.
Watch for cedar waxwings to come through and eat berries of pyracantha, yaupon holly and nandina.	Valentine's Day Prune roses today. Remember your sweetheart with a gift from Schulz.	Last day to plant English peas and sugar snap-type peas.				Rose Seminar, SA Rose Society, 10-12, Marion. Pruning, David Rodriguez, 11-12, Broadway. Garden Answers, David Rodriguez, 12-1, Broadway.
Feed houseplants with Miracle-Gro Muracid.		Use Nature's Guide Corn Gluten Meal Spreadable to treat pre-emergent weeds in the lawn.		It's still a good time to plant trees and shrubs.		
	Feed vegetables with Soil Mender Tomato & Vegetable Food.	Plant asparagus crowns, beets, broccoli transplants, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower transplants, Swiss chard, collards, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, mustard, onion transplants, parsley, parsnips, Irish potatoes, radishes and turnips all through February. Plant English peas and sugar snap-type peas until Feb. 15. Plant sweet corn beginning Feb. 25.				

Texas Mountain Laurel

Reg. \$7.99

Now \$4.66, limit 10

Void after Feb. 28, 2011. One coupon per household. No photocopies. No other discounts apply.

FREE

4" Bedding Plant

\$1.29 Value

Void after Feb. 28, 2011. One coupon per household. No photocopies. No other discounts apply.

Kaytee Wild Bird Seed

Reg. \$9.99, 20 lbs.

Now \$4.90, limit 2

Void after Feb. 28, 2011. One coupon per household.

Mulberry Avenue Closing

If you take Mulberry Avenue to get to Schulz Nursery on Broadway, be aware that Mulberry will be closed west of Broadway until April or May. Just use Hildebrand Avenue or Josephine Street to get to Broadway when you visit Schulz.



Open Daily 9am-6pm

Schulz San Antonio
3700 Broadway
210.804.0600

Take 281 South to Hildebrand Ave., turn right on Broadway. We're across from the Witte Museum.



Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 10-5

Schulz Marion
100 W. Huebinger
830.914.2384

Take 10 East to FM 465. Take the Marion exit and turn left at the fork. Go 1 block past the middle school. We're on the left.

Plant of the Month



Primrose Jasmine

Reg. \$19.99

On sale for

\$14.88 each

Or buy two for \$25.00