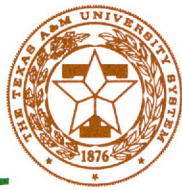


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Horticultural Update



Plant of the Month . . . November

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Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas

Possum-haw Holly, *Ilex decidua*
Family: Aquifoliaceae

Each year in November there is a flurry of interest by consumers/customers/gardeners in what they call the "yaupon-like plant without any leaves." *Ilex decidua* attracts so much attention because of its spectacular and unique presentation of red, orange and yellow fruit which appear when the foliage drops in November or early December. The colorful berries usually remain all winter unless they are removed by the cedar waxwing or one of the other nine species known to feed on the fruit.



November 1994

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Possum-haw hollies are useful in the landscape as large shrubs or small trees and may occur with single or multiple trunks. Female plants are preferred since male selections provide little ornamental value.

Culture is easy. Possum-haws are native from East Texas to western regions of the state and grow in a wide variety of soil and moisture conditions. They tolerate poor drainage quite well but will thrive under fairly dry situations.

Availability is getting better but expect some difficulty in locating nursery grown plants. Some nurseries are now growing female selections from cuttings, which assure the fruit color and sex of the plant. Seed are easily propagated but produce a high percentage of male plants. Determining their gender is not practical until plants are old enough to flower, which may be 2 to 4 years.

Continued on Page 4

Zones of Adaptation for Fruit, Nuts in Texas

FRUIT VARIETIES FOR TEXAS HOMEOWNERS

Peaches

- Zone 1: Bicentennial, Surecrop, Sentinel, Ranger, Redglobe, Denman, Milam, Jefferson, Belle of Georgia, White Star
- Zones 2-3: Regal, Bicentennial, Sentinel, Ranger, Harvester, Redglobe, Milam, Denman, Loring, Dixiland, Redskin, Jefferson, Surecrop, Belle of Georgia
- Zone 4: Regal, Bicentennial, June Gold, Sentinel, Harvester, Redglobe, Sunnergold, Loring, Milam, Dixiland, Redskin, Jefferson, Melba, Palace, White Hale
- Zone 5: Bicentennial, TexRoyal, June Gold, Sentinel, Harvester, La Felician, Dixiland, Redskin, Melba Palace, White Hale
- Zone 6: Earli Grande, Florida-Grande, Florida King, TexRoyal, June Gold, La Felician, Texstar, Flordaglo, Starlite
- Zone 7: Earli Grande, Tropic Beauty, TropicSweet, Flordaprince, Florida-Grande, TropicSnow, Flordaglo

Figs

- Zones 1-3: Texas Everbearing, Celeste
- Zones 4-5: Texas Everbearing, Celeste Alma
- Zones 6-7: Celeste, Alma

Apricots

- Zones 1-3: Bryan, Hungarian, Moorpark
- Zones 6-7: Bleinheim, Royal

Persimmons

- Zone 2: Eureka, Hachiya
- Zones 3-6: Fuyu(Fuyugaki)
- Zone 7: Tanenashi, Tamopan

Nectarines

- Zones 1-3: Redglobe
- Zones 1-5: Armking, Crimson Gold
- Zones 6-7: Sun Red

Plums

- Zones 1-3: Morris, Methley, Ozark, Premier, Bruce, Allred
- Zones 4-6: Methley, Allred, Bruce
- Zones 6-7: Gulfruby, Gulfgold

Jujubes

- All Zones: Li, Lang

Pomegranates

- All Zones: Wonderful

Pears

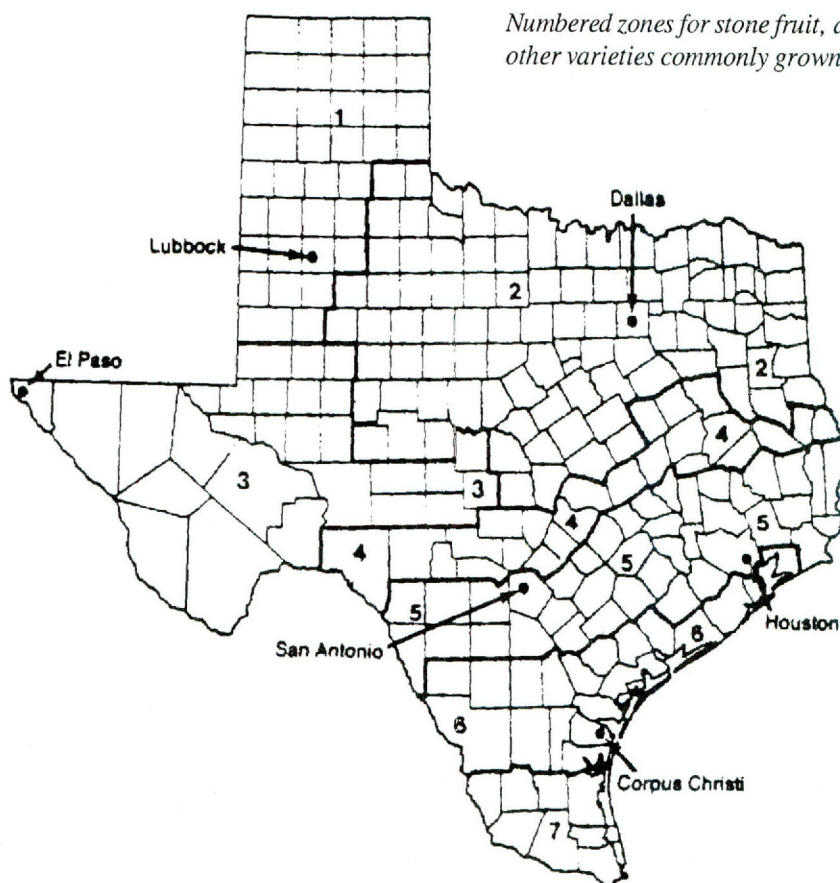
- Zone 1: Orient, Moonglow, Ayers, Kieffer, Surecrop, Maxine, LeConte, Magness
- Zone 2-4: Orient, Moonglow, Kieffer, LeConte, Ayers, Garber, Maxine
- Zone 5-6: Orient, Kieffer, LeConte, Monterrey, Fan-stil, Pineapple, Garber

Loquats

- Zones 4-6: Ornamental
- Zone 7: Fruit Production

Apples

- Zone 1: Starkspur G.D., Red Chief, Starkrimson R.D., Smoothee, Top Red, Prime Gold, Jersey mac, Granny Smith, Gala
- Zone 2: Top Red, Red Chief, Starkrimson R.D., Starkspur G.D., Smoothee, Prime Gold, Jersey mac, Mollie's Delicious, Granny Smith
- Zone 3: Jersey mac, Gala, Starkspur G.D., Starkrimson R.D., Mollie's Delicious, Ozark Gold
- Zone 4: Jersey mac, Gala, Mollie's Delicious, Starkrimson R.D., Granny Smith
- Zone 5: Ein Sheimer, Anna, Dorsett Gold, Mollie's Delicious
- Zone 6-7: Ein Sheimer, Dorsett Gold, Anna



Numbered zones for stone fruit, apples, and other varieties commonly grown in Texas

BERRY VARIETIES FOR TEXAS HOMEOWNERS

Blackberries

Zones 1-2: Brazos, Rosborough,
Womack, Brison, Cheyenne, Shawnee,
Hull

Zones 3-4: Brazos, Rosborough,
Womack, Brison

Blueberries

Zone 2: Tifblue, Woodard, Delite,
Briteblue, Climax, Premiere, Brightwell

Zone 4: Climax, Sharpblue, Beckyblue,
Tifblue, Woodard, Premier, Brihtwell

Red Raspberries

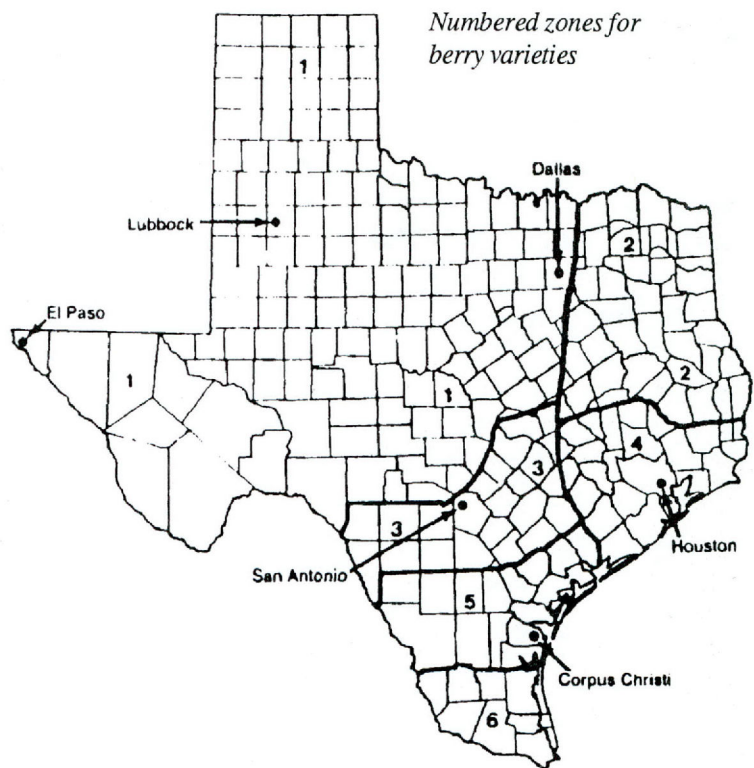
Zones 1-4: Dorman Red

Strawberries

Zones 1-2: Sunrise, Cardinal, Allstar

Zones 3-4: Sequoia, Douglas, Chandler,
Tioga, Fresno, Tangi

Zones 5-6: Sequoia, Douglas, Tioga



Numbered zones for
berry varieties

NUT AND GRAPE VARIETIES FOR TEXAS HOMEOWNERS

Pecans

Zone 1: Osage, Caddo, Pawnee,
Merrimac

Zone 2: Wichita, Western, Cheyenne,
Tejas

Zones 3-5: Kiowa, Choctaw, Cheyenne,
Wichita, Shawnee, Western

Zones 4-7: Desirable, Choctaw,
Cheyenne, Shawnee, Kiowa, Caddo,
Cape Fear, Oconee, Forkert

Grapes

Zones 1-3: Hybrid, Vinifera, American

Zone 2: vinifera only

Zone 5: American

Zones 4-7: American and P.P. Resistant
Varieties

Grapes: Hybrids

Seibel 9110 S.V. 12-375

Rayon d'Or Vidal 256

Aurelia Mars Seedless

Reliance Seedless Seibel 7053

Orlando Seedless

Grapes: Muscadines

Higgins Regale

Summit Cowart

Fry

Grapes: American

Champanel

Favorite

Grapes: Vinifera

Cabernet

Sauvignon

Sauvignon Blanc

White Riesling

Thompson Seedless

Black Monukka

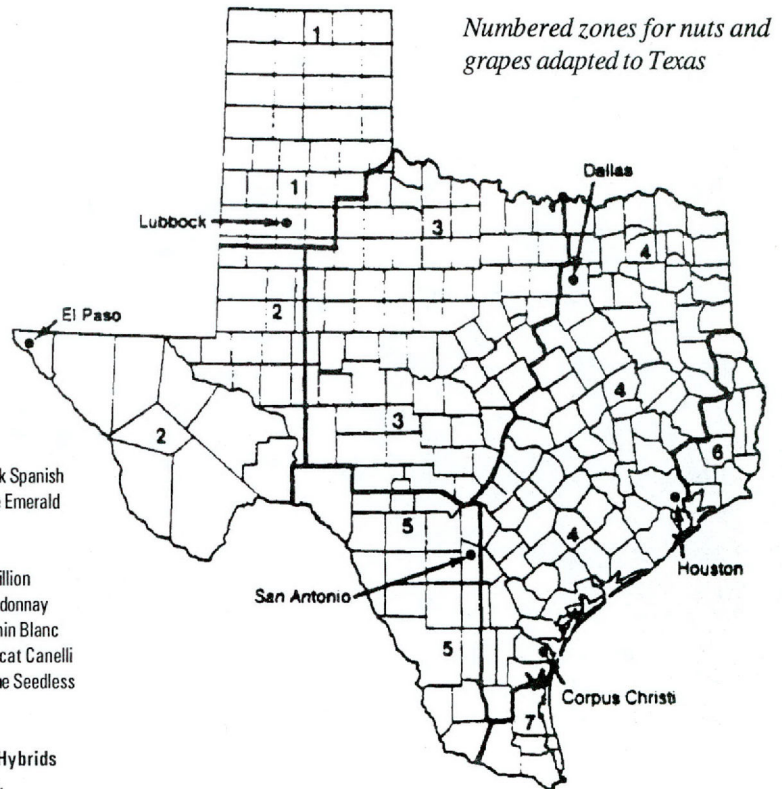
Pierce's Disease-Resistant Hybrids

Orlando Seedless, Blanc du Bois,

Roucaueuf, Villard Blanc

Black Spanish
Lake Emerald

Semillion
Chardonnay
Chenin Blanc
Muscat Canelli
Flame Seedless



Numbered zones for nuts and
grapes adapted to Texas



Prepare Now for Spring Color

Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas

Planting spring bulbs in the fall is as natural as falling leaves and football games. It is a grand opportunity often neglected by the home gardener if he or she does not include some of the hardy, easy-to-grow spring beauties in the garden this fall. Spring-flowering bulbs, including tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, and Dutch iris, are truly some of the simplest of flowers to grow. All they require is fall planting to reward you with weeks of early spring color, fragrance and beauty.

One's success with spring bulbs will depend to a large extent on the selection of healthy, top-quality bulbs. Second-rate bulbs, or bargain bulbs, produce second-rate flowers and often first-rate disappointment. To be assured of top quality bulbs of the best varieties, make your selections at your local nursery or garden center soon. If you purchase bulbs now, store them in a cool dry place until planting time arrives in late November. Excessively warm temperatures will cause the bulbs to dry out and result in injury to the flower bud inside the bulb.

As with any gardening you do, it's always wise to plan before you plant. Here are some pointers that should help you get the most from your flowering bulb dollar:

Planning.

Know what colors and types of bulbs you'll be using. Also know where and how many you will need. Choose varieties that will give an extended blooming season. Some flowers will pop out at the first promise of spring, while others will hold back for weeks. By selecting your varieties carefully, you can have blooms for as long as five or six weeks.

For the most effective display, mass colors together in the beds. Try all red, all pink or all yellow in a single bed. Mixed colors just don't show up as dramatically.

Planting.

Special attention should be given to the location of the bulb bed. Most bulbs prefer a sunny site. The growth is more vigorous and the colors sharper. Prepare the soil carefully. Drainage is of utmost importance. Spade the soil thoroughly to provide the loose texture and good drainage necessary. Use coarse sand, peat moss or other organic material to loosen heavy, tight soil.

Lay out the bulbs on the soil according to your plan. Most large bulbs should be spaced from 6 to 8 inches apart, while the smaller ones should be at 3 to 6 inch spacing. Check a bulb planting chart so that proper depth is observed. A rule of thumb is to plant the bulb in the ground about three times the width of the bulb. Water the beds after planting and "as needed" during the winter months.

A final note about tulips and hyacinths. Don't make the mistake of planting them before they have been precooled in your refrigerator for five to six weeks. This time spent in the refrigerator is important to them, and to you, if you want them to bloom properly. Just put a sack of tulip or hyacinth bulbs down in the vegetable crisper out of the way, then mark your calendar for mid-December planting.

Remember that bulbs planted this fall will set the stage for next spring's flower show in your garden.

Plant of the Month - November (Continued from Front Page)

If collecting specimens from their native habitat, two things should be kept in mind: first, select a plant with at least a few berries; second, unless you have access to large scale digging equipment, choose a small plant. Possum-haw grow quickly once established but large

collected plants can be slow to recover from transplanting. *Ilex decidua* is a beautiful and potentially useful small tree adapted to most of Texas. Increasing availability should make it a popular choice for many home owners.

Plant Landscape Trees from Seed

Bill D. Adams, Harris County Horticulturist
Texas Agricultural Extension Service

This is the season when trees begin to mature seed to produce next year's crop of young trees. There are a few exceptions: Some maples and some elms mature seed immediately in the spring, but oaks, most maples, magnolia and many other tree species mature their seeds from late summer through fall.

I realize it's almost revolutionary to suggest planting landscape trees from seed, but it can be fun. And you'll be surprised how quickly many of these seedlings will grow - especially if you keep grass and weeds away from the base of the small seedlings with a good mulch. At first you'll probably want to start them in pots.

In the case of magnolia, rub the red, oily covering, known as an oriole, off the seed using paper towels. Mix the seed with damp peat moss and seal in a plastic bag. These bags should then be placed in a refrigerator for 90 to 120 days; at that time, the seeds can be planted and will emerge immediately.

Unfortunately, it still could be the dead of winter so you'll need a greenhouse or be prepared to protect them. Oak, redbud and many other seeds also can be treated this way. In the case of redbud seed, the seed coat is very hard. Lightly scraping it with the edge of a file, prior to the cold moist treatment (known as stratification), will accomplish another process in the nursery industry known as scarification.

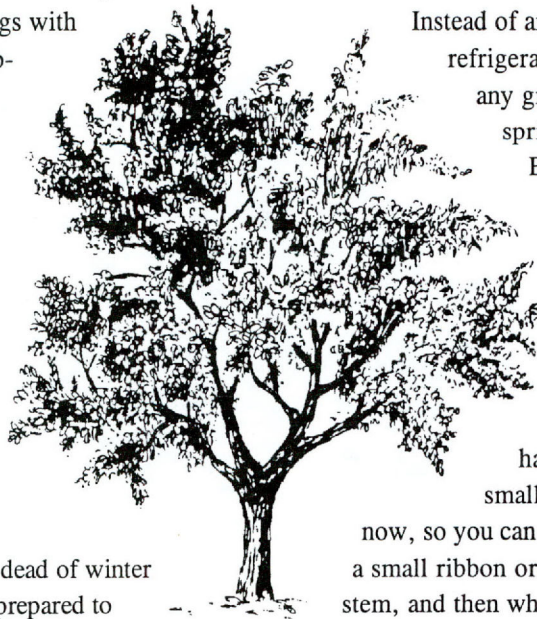
Most oak seeds, especially red oaks, won't begin to germinate until next spring, but members of the white oak family, such as white oak or swamp chestnut oak or burr oak may germinate even in the fall. Last year I lost a number of prize Mexican oaks because the root portion of

the seed had germinated, but since the top had not yet come above the soil I didn't protect them during a hard freeze. When they didn't emerge the next spring I found the frozen seed with an equally frozen root projecting from it. One or two tree seedlings in a container usually can go through a growing season before they are transplanted into the yard. It's really best to thin the plant down to one tree per pot after they germinate in the spring or take a chance on a few not coming up and plant only one seed to each 5-gallon container.

Instead of artificially stratifying the seed in the refrigerator - since most tree seeds won't begin any growth until the soil warms up in the spring - you can simply plant them outside. Be sure to include a stake or other marker, however, so you will know where to look for emerging seedlings. This obviously is a slow way to get landscape trees, but there is a great deal of satisfaction involved, too.

Another technique to consider if you have property somewhere with a lot of small seedlings coming up is to mark them now, so you can tell which seedlings are which. Just tie a small ribbon or use a piece of colored tape around the stem, and then when they go dormant in November, dig up the small seedlings and transplant them to your yard.

The majority of trees used in your landscape, however, probably will come from a local nurseryman. Be sure that if you buy the plant growing in a container you spread the roots out from the rootball into the surrounding planting hole and cut the top back about one-third to compensate. This will keep them from becoming rootbound. Keep mulch around the base of the tree in a 3-foot diameter and the trees will grow much faster than if they had to compete with the grass.



Potted Chrysanthemum

*Dr. Don C. Wilkerson, Extension Horticulturist
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas*

The potted chrysanthemum is the most popular flowering plant sold in Texas. It has excellent keeping quality and comes in a wide range of color, form and size. To be sure the next potted mum you buy provides maximum enjoyment in your home or office, follow these basic suggestions when making your selection.

Look for a potted mum that has only 1/2 to 3/4 of its flowers fully open. This stage of development is best for extending the blooming period of the plant in its new environment. A potted mum with less than half of its flowers open will not develop properly in the home or office.

Don't select plants which are wilted or dry to the touch. Strong stems and a green luster to the foliage are good signs of freshness. Examine the flowers carefully to avoid those plants which have a brown or moldy appearance around the margins of the petals.

Once in its new environment, the potted mum can easily last more than a month if given some basic care:

1. Remove or punch holes through any decorative foil or wrapping on the pot. Although it may be attractive, foil wrapping impedes drainage and holds water. This may cause the roots to rot and the plant to deteriorate quickly.
2. Keep the plant out of hot or cold drafts. Excessively hot, dry air from heating ducts and appliances will reduce the keeping quality of the plant.
3. Potted chrysanthemums cannot tolerate cold or rapidly changing temperatures. Keep the plant where temperatures remain between 60° to 70°F.
4. Place the plant in good light, but avoid direct sunlight.
5. Potted mums use a moderate amount of water and should be checked daily. Make sure the soil remains moist but be careful not to overwater. When adding water, allow some to run through the root mass and out of the pot.

To be sure you receive a quality mum, ask for a Texas product. It's your assurance of a locally grown plant at its peak of freshness.

Mistletoe Meets Match

*Mark E. Terning, Wichita County Extension Horticulturist
Texas Agricultural Extension Service*

Mistletoe has finally met its match. This common parasite which lives off of many of our area shade trees can be suppressed without the normal need for pruning or cutting. Tree species such as pecan, hackberry, mesquite, and oak are often infested with mistletoe.

The parasite (mistletoe) steals nutrients and moisture from the host organism (your tree). Removal of this unwanted parasite would often necessitate heavy cutting or pruning of shade trees to a point of practically butchering your favorite tree.

Now we have an alternative for mistletoe suppression. A product call Florel™ works as growth regulator to hold back the parasite where it attaches to the tree. Result demonstration testing during 1991 showed suppression of mistletoe in dormant deciduous shade trees. Another treatment every 2 to 3 years may be needed to maintain suppression of the mistletoe. The parasite is not killed, but it is held back to where it joins the tree. Certain guidelines must be followed to efficiently and safely use this control product.

Florel should be applied when deciduous trees are dormant. Mistletoe in the tree should be spot treated, insuring good coverage of the parasite back to where it attaches to the tree. Use a nonionic surfactant (sticking agent) at the recommended rate for increased effectiveness. Do not use the product when temperatures are below 32°F for 24 hours. Avoid drift onto other desirable ornamental plants or vehicles and structures. Remember to follow all label directions on the product.

Check with your local tree care company, garden center, or chemical distributor for Florel for mistletoe control. Large trees which are infested with mistletoe are often difficult for home owners to treat accurately. Tree care companies have equipment and the expertise to efficiently treat large trees with mistletoe infestations.

Information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service is implied.



Garden Checklist for November

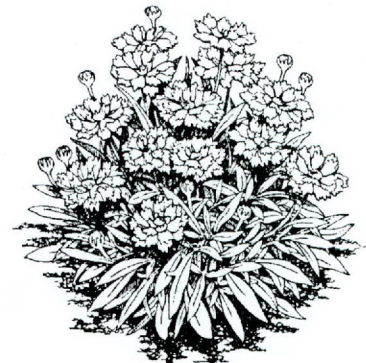
*Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist
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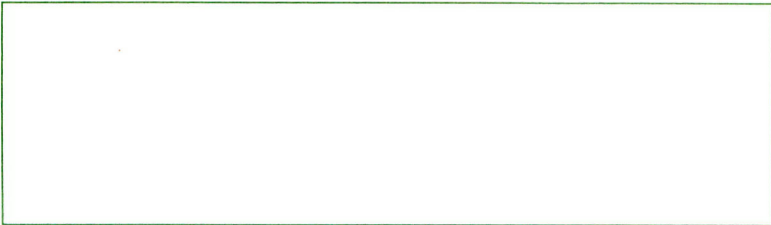
- Place orders for seeds this month so you will have them available when you are ready to plant. Also by ordering early you will be sure to get the varieties you want. Store in a closed container in the lower part of your refrigerator till time to plant.
- Evergreen plants frequently suffer from lack of moisture during those occasional winter dry periods that occur in Texas. Adequate soil moisture provides the best protection you can give your plants against winter cold injury.
- There is still time to plant pansies, if you have not already done so.
- Plant pansies, calendulas, flowering kale and larkspur for early spring color. Best to use started plants at this time. Select short, stocky plants with good green color.
- Clean, repair and oil garden tools and equipment. A coat of linseed oil on wooden handles will help preserve the wood.
- Drain the gasoline from power tools and run the engine until fuel in the carburetor is used.
- November through February is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. In the Panhandle planting is often delayed until February or early March.
- Protect tender plants by covering with structures made of wood frames and covered with clear plastic film. If a severe freeze is predicted use an outdoor type extension cord and a lightbulb placed under the cover. It will usually provide sufficient heat to protect the plants if the cover is well constructed.



Christmas poinsettias will soon be available. Don't be misled by the scare stories about the poisonous qualities of these beautiful plants. Plant scientists at Ohio State University have proven through extensive testing that they are not poisonous. There is, however, the possibility that some individuals may be allergic to certain plants including the poinsettia.

- Bare spots under trees or other heavily shaded areas? Consider using shade tolerant ground cover in those areas. English ivy, Algerian ivy, Monkey grass, lirope, or vinca are excellent choices.
- Continue planting spring flowering wildflowers in early November. Bluebonnets, Drummond phlox, rudbeckia and coreopsis can be sown now.





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LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION AUDITOR TRAINING PROGRAM

The next Texas Landscape Irrigation Auditor training program will be held on November 16 and 17 in College Station. The program promotes water conservation through the development of customized irrigation schedules for large turf areas such as parks, campuses, and golf courses.

For more information on participating, contact:

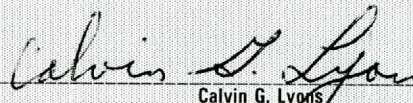
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