

DECEMBER 2010

The GREENLEAF



NEWSLETTER

HOURS: MON - SAT 8:00 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.
SUN 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.



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*Closed Christmas Day, December 25th
& New Years Day, January 1st*

It's Still Working! "Right Plant, Right Place"

By Rob Wier

How would I sum up our year? We still provide the "Right Plants" and help people put them in the "Right Place!"

This economy has made us all be watchful of every dollar we spend. Gardeners want the best value for their dollars. The "Right Plants", native or well adapted to our local area, fit the bill. We don't promote plants that will struggle or need excessive prep work or care only to frustrate you with gardening! Everyone wants low maintenance plants that provide beauty with less care. We've got seven acres full of great choices!

The other half of the equation is putting those "Right Plants" in the "Right Place". We gladly assist people every day in making good sound choices. We want every plant we sell to thrive and bring you, our customers and friends, satisfaction and joy. We provide the time and knowledge as an added value to ensure gardener success!

Funny thing is that now is the "Right Time" to

plant. You read that right! Good gardeners plant *now*. In fact, I just planted my entire back yard landscape. Look for pictures and an article in next month's newsletter! All the plants we have are cold hardy to our winters. The plants will root in and become established now through the winter. In spring, with well developed root systems, they'll flourish so you can sit back and enjoy rather than be out digging in the dirt!

The weather now generally takes care of your plantings so there is less watering and pampering needed. An added bonus is that the pace around the nursery is a little slower and our staff has plenty of time to spend helping you select those "Right Plants".

Thanks for your patronage during these tough economic times. We plan on being here to provide the "Right Plants". Remember, 60-70% of the dollars spent with small local businesses are re-circulated within the local community. We wish all of you a wonderful Holiday Season!

Timely Hints

By Rob Wier

Plant ...

Cool Season Color! Pansies, Dianthus, Ornamental Kale and Cabbage, Snapdragons, and Cyclamen. Cover your color bowls with frost cloth (we carry N-Sulate) during hard freezes.

Shrubs, Perennials, and Trees! Don't miss our **Tree Sale**, we've extended it through January 31st, but you don't have to wait that long ... trees make wonderful Christmas gifts, too.

Fertilize ... Apply **Blood Meal** every two weeks on Pansies and other winter color. Keeps them happily growing and blooming and it helps deter the rabbits. Apply **Superthrive** monthly on your newly planted trees and large shrubs. It can also help your houseplants make it through the 'winter blahs' if applied monthly.

Prune ... Major tree pruning (after trees have lost their leaves and are dormant) can be done now until mid-February. We have a pruning class on December 11th with a focus on trees. We'll have other pruning classes coming up in January and February. You may trim back perennials to tidy them up, or you can leave the spent growth for the wildlife to pick through when they visit your garden.

Pests & Animal Stopper...

Rabbits? **Animal Stopper** helps when you apply it every few weeks. **Blood Meal** helps, too. Whatever you choose to use, you need to use it regularly and be diligent in your application. Remember, those bunnies are hungry every night! They're persistent, so you have to be persistent.

Be on the lookout for scale on trees and shrubbery. If you've had it before, your plants are candidates to get it again. Use **Dormant Oil** to control.

Water ... Keep your sprinkler on **Manual Mode**. If we don't get about a half-inch of rain every two weeks, then you can run your sprinkler once. Remember most plants, trees, and grass are dormant during this time of year and hardly need any water. The exception is newly planted plants, of course. Hand-Water all newly planted plants rather than waste water watering everything with your sprinkler. Another exception would be to water your whole landscape *thoroughly* before an arctic blast to help your plants withstand *severe* freezes better.

Other Bits and Pieces ...

- Keep bird feeders filled. Bird-watching is great during the winter.
- We carry a frost cloth called '**N-Sulate**' that is lightweight yet provides protection for tender plants in freezing weather.
- Put fuel stabilizer in your lawn equipment, or take it in and get it serviced before spring. Spring is just about 13 weeks away!
- Get out in the evening and enjoy your outdoor fire pit or fireplace. We carry **Pinion Wood** to add that wonderful 'mountain' scent to your fire. Cool, crisp air, the warmth of a glowing fire, the company of friends and loved ones, a glass of Merlot ... there's hardly a better way to enjoy your garden in December.
- Take your **Treegator** bag off your tree when not using it. Leaving it on for extended time (2-3 weeks) keeps your trunk from getting air and light.
- Check newly planted plants and trees weekly to make sure they are establishing well. They like

December Events

Daily: Check Facebook for our posts of unique Gift Ideas and Specials to help with your Holiday shopping!

Dec 11th, 1pm : Pruning 101 With Rob Wier: Learn about pruning tools and how to trim trees properly. Rob will show you how to prune with a purpose! Don't worry about the weather. We'll meet in the greenhouse if the weather is inclement otherwise out front on the patio!

Dec 11th, 2:30pm: Neil Sperry will be here to sell his handmade pens! Always a big hit and a distinctive and thoughtful holidays gift or for that special graduate!

Trees Of Fall

By Jeff McCauley

That's right, Trees Of Fall! Not by Kenny Chesney but by our own Jeff McCauley! Unfortunately there is not a tree that is Celina orange (Jeff is a major Celina Bobcat Fan. We are not sure but think his blood is either Celina orange or Aggie maroon). He shares some of his favorite fall color trees with us.



Chinese Pistache



Chinese Pistache is a deciduous long lived medium size tree that flames into color even when warm weather persists into the fall. Its foliage turns a brilliant red and shades to orange as the season deepens. The mature size of 30-40' high with a 30' wide canopy. Chinese Pistache is a great selection for small urban yards. It is definitely an eye catcher!

Sweet Gum is a deciduous tree that is native to east Texas. It will do better with sandy soils which we have in some areas around here. The canopy is more columnar in shape and matures at about 50-60 feet high and 30-40 feet wide. Many people that are from parts of the country where maples grow mistake this tree for a maple because its leaf is very similar. This tree's fall color is variable all on the same tree from yellow to orange to red to purple!



Sweet Gum



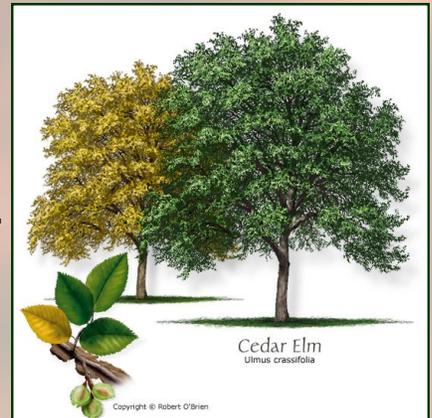
Texas Ash

Fraxinus texensis



Texas Ash is a deciduous tree with a well spread canopy 40-60 feet wide. It has beautiful fall colors of orange yellow, red and purple. Don't mistake this with Arizona Ash which will only display yellow colors.

Cedar Elm is one of Jeff's favorites for several reasons. This tree is deciduous and native to our alkaline, caliche soils. The leaves turn a yellow orange color which makes a great contrast with the dark bark. It has small leaves the size of a live oak and is sometimes mistaken for one during the growing season. Very hardy, many landscapers use this tree in original landscaping of new homes.



Cedar Elm

Ulmus crassifolia

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Continued on pg. 4, see Trees...

Stay Warm Coupon

\$5.00 off

Purchase of Pinon Wood or Firewood!

One Coupon Per Household
Please present Coupon, Expires December 31, 2010



Tyler CANDLE COMPANY™

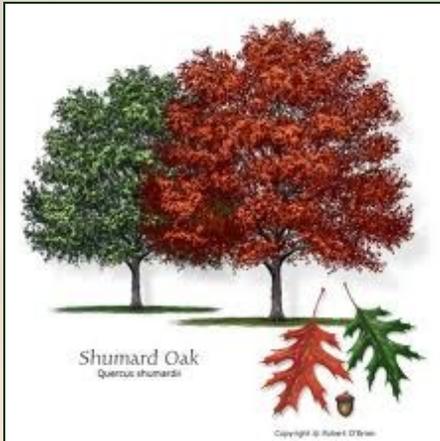
20% Off

A Christmas Tradition

December's Fragrance Of the Month!
Please Present Coupon,
Expires December 31, 2010



Trees Of Fall Continued



Shumard Red Oak is a gorgeous deciduous tree that gets very large over time and needs a lot of space to mature. This tree has very hard wood and turns red and oranges with a traditional oak leaf similar to our Shades Of Green logo! Shumard Red Oaks are native to our area and will flourish in our black alkaline clay soils. If you have one that stays an unhealthy light green then it is probably really a Pin Oak, not a Red Oak. Pin Oak branches are more perpendicular to the trunk and it prefers more acidic sandy soil. Unfortunately Pin Oaks do not live long here and it will continue to decline until death. Bite the bullet, put it out of misery, remove the tree and replace it with a proven Shumard Red Oak (we grow them at the farm) or another variety of native tree. We can help you choose one that will thrive for you!

Crepe Myrtles are known for hot summer flower power but also provide rich fall colors of yellow to red. Because they mature to a smaller size they can be planted closer to the house! They come in all summer colors and sizes!



Crepe Myrtle



Coral Bark Japanese Maple

Another Fall stunner is Coral Bark Japanese Maple, a small under-story tree that can be planted closer to the

house. It requires only a few hours of morning sun. The main reason it is on my list is that when it sheds its leaves the coral bark is beautiful! Even more beautiful in the spring when it puts on fresh tender green leaves providing a brilliant contrast of colors!

deciduous tree run sparkling yellow in fall and quake in the wind similar to Colorado Aspens. The light gray bark is a handsome foil for the fall foliage. This is very slow growing tree you may encounter a 10-15 inch caliper tree that could be 40 to 50 years old. We grow them at Brillo Verde, our tree farm, and have a good selection in stock. All your neighbors will ask about it!



Ginkgo trees are a distinctive with elegant leaves that

The weather and our native trees cooperated this year and we were blessed with such great fall color in our area! for color in your garden for next year. Come in today and take advantage of huge savings with the extended tree sale! Cool summer shade and brilliant fall color makes a perfect holiday gift for your sweetie. No one returns a tree!



Ginkgo

Now is the time to plan



MERRY CHRISTMAS



December 11, 2:30pm Pens By Neil Sperry

Pens handmade by Neil Sperry in his home workshop feature historic and beautiful woods from the world over!



Each pen is a beautiful and unique work of art and would make a distinctive gift for a loved one or that special grad!

Neil will be appearing in person at
Shades Of Green
Saturday, December 11th, 2:30

Proceeds go to Serenity High,
a charity that Neil supports.

~Please see Nursery Staff for Gardening questions but
feel free to ask Neil anything about the pens!~

Annual Tree Sale Extended!!!

Savings up to
30% Off
Ends January 31, 2010

See Store For Details

Remember To Visit Our Website And Check Facebook For Promotions and Events! www.ShadesOfGreenInc.com



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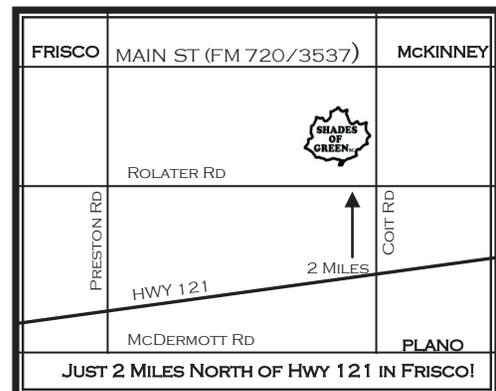
Like Shades Of Green on Facebook! Sign onto Facebook, search on "Shades Of Green" & select our Leaf Logo! Watch for updates on events and unannounced specials!

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Fall / Winter Hours:
MON - SAT 8:00 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.
SUN 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.



Texas Certified Nursery Professionals