



FEBRUARY 2010



# The GREENLEAF

## NEWSLETTER

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WINTER HOURS: MON - SAT 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

SUN 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

### 2009 Best Sellers

#### *A Review of Your Favorites and Not So Favorites*

By Brice Creelman

The top 10 best sellers last year are all very colorful, easy to grow, low maintenance, and drought tolerant. Five are native. The other five, like many Yankees, got here as fast as they could! Mix or match any to make the bones of a great perennial border. If you have any room left, add some of our worst sellers here and there, they will give you something unusual to keep your friends and family returning each week to see what is happening. And believe me stuff will be happening! Butterflies, hummingbirds, dragonflies, and other assorted livestock! Let's hope the bees will only "bee" there when you aren't.

**#1 – Blackfoot Daisy.** Anyone can grow a begonia and believe you me, everyone does! But it takes a real gardener to have a nice stand of Blackfoot Daisies. They are native, fragrant and drought tolerant! What more could you possibly want? Add on to your combo planter, let it be the spiller. We are proud of you for including them.



**#2 – Stella d'Oro Daylily.** Stella is the longest blooming daylily. She stays short, no care, no problems. As you will find out, she gets better with age like a lot of us! Don't divide, unless it blooms less each year or is now in some shade. Full sun is best. Don't forget the daylily 'Going Bananas'. It may give Stella a run for her money!



**#3 – Scabiosa Butterfly Blue.** Certainly has the right name. Normally non-aggressive butterflies will fight over this one. It is not native but does like our dryer conditions. It fits in just fine here!



**#4 – Sedum "Lemon Coral"** would be our best seller overall if we count quart size but we aren't, so there! Yellow is *the* color for 2010. Nice plant if you like yellow but some don't. Plant it anyway. It sure is more interesting than that darn yellow sweet potato vine.



**#5 – Stipa Mexican Feather Grass.** Great in the ground or in a planter. Native, drought tolerant, goes with everything, even eggplant!



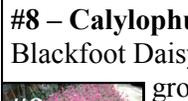
...See "2009 Best" page 2

# 2009 Best Sellers

**#6 – Ice Plant.** Great ground cover, bright, gaudy, fuchsia blooms. Not native, used like crazy in California. Maybe some crazy transplants are planting it here!



**#7 – Ruellia “Katie’s Blue”** is a great native plant for those who have given up on gardening and plants and themselves in the yard in general. Do yourself a favor and plant some Katies someplace. In sun, in shade, in a crack, in a crevice, water it a lot or don't water it so much. Step on it, swear at it. Katie can take it! So can her sisters “Katie’s White” and “Katie’s Pink”. It'll make a gardener out of you yet. When you find out how well it grows, your neighbors will swear at you.



**#8 – Calylophus.** A native, yellow blooming, ground cover. In the same boat as Blackfoot Daisy. Loves the same conditions, hot and dry. Great when nothing else will grow. One or two plants really pack a punch in your yard.



**#9 – Pink Scullcap.** It's not native but has been adopted from Mexico for so long, it seems native. Fits in anyplace. Mounds of pink blooms all summer. Can get woody with age but just cut it back if need be. Easy to grow, plant “green side up” please!



**#10 – Salvia greggi- Red** – One could plant nothing but salvias and have a colorful, low maintenance native garden that would be the envy of the neighborhood. Why hasn't a garden club put in a salvia garden in some lucky city around here? Lots of different colors and they hybridize easily. So watch for new colors. We here at Shades Of Green love Salvias. We may even have the elusive Salvia “Sangria Swirl” again this year. Keep them cut back. The green stem will keep booming all season long.



## Not So Great Sellers of 2009



They are only the worst sellers because no one knows about them or they failed to make much of a show or got shuffled under a bench someplace. We had a flurry of activity after last year's list. No one knew we even grew them. Let's hope there are still some around from this year's list.

**#1 – Achillea White.** Nice native plant. Perhaps it's a bit weedy and spreads in rich soil. Ok, you win on this one.

**#2 Buffalo Gourd.** When I saw it in a dry, weedy fence line outside of Austin on a narrow dirt road, I thought it looked so healthy with its large blue leaves on a vine that went on forever. I guess it is best along a narrow dirt road outside of Austin on a dry weedy fence line!



**#3 – Compass Plant.** Native plant with a yellow daisy like flower on a tall (6') plant. Cool part is the flowers always face south, ergo, the name Compass Plant. I grew it for a whole year in a 1 gallon container and it had two leaves and nothing else. Maybe worth it to start some from seed if you sometimes lose your way in the garden.

**#4 – Dianthus “Prairie Sun”.** Discovered in Nebraska or Kansas or someplace up north. Tall, double pink flowers flop all over the place. Does great in the heat but space is at a premium... maybe place in a cutting garden.

...See “Not So” page 3

## *Not So Great Sellers of 2009.. Continued*

**5 – Dicheriste Snake Herb.** There is a wonderful stand of snake herb at the Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham, but they did not have it for sale when I was there. This native ground cover is an excellent grower, and has blue flowers all season long. It's a cousin to Ruellia. They love it at the Heard Museum in McKinney and I suppose it's also real popular in France.



**#6 – Rattlesnake master.** A tall native prairie plant with strapping leaves and a tall (3') spiky, white globe-like flower. It is loved by people who like a tall, spiky, white globe-like flower and not many others. We kept ours by the 1 gallon yucca which may have been it's problem last year. We will keep it around one more year. Search it out!

**#7 – Salvia “Augusta Duelberg”** Is it because it has white flowers or is it just unknown? It takes quite a bit of shade. You could do worse...

**#8 – White Turks cap.** Just not the year for white I guess. Also takes quite a bit of shade. Thanks to Linda Strain for using it in her wonderful designs.



I wonder what this year's favorites and not so favorites will be????

## *Ready, Set, Go... Prepare Your Yard For Spring*

By Rob Wier

All it takes is a warm, balmy day in January. We, as gardeners, can't resist the urge to get outdoors and play in the soil. Our phone lines light up with inquisitive customers and others wander about the nursery looking for a reason to dig!

Behind us are the cold dreary days of fall and winter. Yet don't be fooled. February and March have their share of cold and wet weather. However, a glimpse that spring is around the corner is all we need to come down with garden fever!

February is a major garden month here locally. There are plenty of things to prune, beds to tidy up, and amendments that need added. Then sit back in March and watch your gardens come alive for spring. Here are some **Must Do's** for February:

- ✿ Prune Roses
- ✿ Fertilize Trees
- ✿ Apply Corn Gluten Meal
- ✿ See Timely Hints on page 4 for more February Must Do's!

Wise gardeners try to stay ahead of their garden. So you must be a wise gardener because you are spending time reading this article trying to learn something new or improve your gardening skills. Wise gardeners are constantly learning.

There is a lot to do for your yard and gardens this month. Please read Timely Hints. We provide these each month to remind you of important tasks to perform. Feel free to share them with your friends, family, and neighbors. Wise Gardeners freely share their knowledge.

We are still here as a resource in plants, products, and helpful advice. So get a jump on spring and come on in. It will be great to see your smiling face again!

# TIMELY HINTS

By Rob Wier

**Plant ...** Cool season annual color such as **Pansies, Snapdragons, Kale, Cabbage, and Dianthus**. Plant Perennials, Shrubs, and Trees, too!! We have a great selection of the best and hardiest varieties of trees for our area. From large shade trees to smaller sized ornamental trees ... you can plant them now. New arrivals fresh from our farm – include **Chinese Pistache, Lacey Oak, and Shantung Maple**. Now is the time to move or transplant dormant trees and shrubs.

**Prune ...** Finish dormant season pruning (major pruning) on trees and shrubs this month. You may clean up your perennials to get ready for March's spring weather. Come to our **Pruning Class on February 6th**, if you need guidance. Remember prune with a purpose. Only you can prevent "Crape Murder"! Prune Roses in mid-month. Prune ground-covers late in the month to tidy up.

**Fertilize ...** Late February (around the 17<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>) is a good time to fertilize your whole yard with **Gardenville 7-2-2**. Lawns, beds, vegetable gardens, shrubs, and trees all will benefit. Download our article '**The Basics of Feeding Your Trees**' from our website, or pick up a copy at the nursery. We'll be happy to clarify it all for you!

Apply **Greensand** now as well. Greensand is a natural source of iron. Our clay soils hold onto iron tightly, so I encourage you to apply Greensand in February and in September to provide plenty of iron for your plants, especially evergreens. Hollies, Magnolias, Live Oaks, etc., these plants maintain green foliage through the winter and utilize more iron in their foliage to keep those leaves green in the winter. Applying Greensand on an annual basis replaces the iron that gets depleted as these plants establish.

Continue to apply **Bloodmeal** on Pansies and other annual color every two weeks for eye-popping color.

**Water ...** Leave the sprinkler controller in the OFF position. If we don't get a 1/2" of rain every two weeks, consider watering manually once every two weeks. A rain/freeze sensor installed on your sprinkler system will save \$\$\$ over the year and most irrigators aren't busy now so get one if you don't have one. Please continue to be responsible with your water use. I feel as if we'll have another dry summer.

**Pests ...** Use **Dormant Oil** to control scale on Crape Myrtles, Hollies, Live Oaks, and other plants. Remember, the first step is to identify the pest(s), then use an appropriate control.

**Weed Prevention ...** Mid-February to late February is time to apply **Corn Gluten Meal** to inhibit weeds from developing from seed. This is a preventative measure, so it won't cure existing weeds, but it can prevent new ones from coming up. *[Pick up a copy of our information 'Organics 101' along with the 'Organics Calendar' at the nursery or download it from our website.]*

**OTHER...Rabbit deterrent** – We have a great product in the nursery we have been using to stop rabbit damage on our plants. The product "**Animal Stopper**" is granular and has been keeping the rabbits at bay. The product is safe, organic and comes with satisfaction guaranteed. This product is working for us, so if you have a rabbit problem give it a try. Run, Rabbit, Run!



## Find The Perfect Gift For Your Valentine

Take advantage of a great opportunity to get that special or unique gift for your Valentine! We are having a **GIANT SALE** on our wide selection of gift and garden accessories in the store. You'll save from **30% to 50%** off from February 1<sup>st</sup> until February 14<sup>th</sup>. Who knows? You might even find something you can't live without!

## The GreenLeaf Update

Thanks so much for your patience on our change to publishing *The GreenLeaf* online. It really is the **Greener** way to go! Thanks also for your suggestions as we are definitely more well versed in gardening than in using the computer :-)  
Sometimes we need the help.



### Here are some of the Tyler Candle scents we carry. Which one matches your current flame???

**BEACH BLONDE**—A crisp invigorating scent reminiscent of sand, warm suntan oil & sea mist. Very inviting & somewhat overpowering, hence the name Beach Blonde.

**COWBOY**—nearly decadent in its sensuality; loaded with the rugged aroma of leather.

**DIVA**—A warm and complex fragrance overflowing with delicious fruits and rich florals. Rich aromatic chocolate and amber complete this luscious blend!! It's her world . . . We just live in it.

**DOLCE VITA**—Where sensuality and femininity live side-by-side! Plunge straight into the heart of deep floral accords. Full-bodied tea and bergamot begin the temptation! Sabac, jasmine, orchid, freesia and patchouli come together to create the power to make everything more positive.

**GIRLY GIRL**—Starts bashful, sweet and slightly innocent. Quickly becomes brisk, and fabulously flirtatious!

**HIGH MAINTENANCE**—The #1 fragrance!! Floral, woody blend combined with patchouli and vanilla with a heavy musk undertone! Very sophisticated and truly addictive!!!!

**HIPPIE CHICK**—A hint of the freshest vanilla bean melds with rich exotic patchouli to transport you legally to the days of the VW bus, Rock & Roll, and tie dye T-shirts!!

**INDULGE**—Rich brown sugar layered between sweet applesauce & tart apples. Sprinkled with cinnamon & clove to complete this irresistible delight!

**LIPSTICK**—Gourmet berry fragrance with a hint of sweet strawberry and the tartness of pomegranates. Appetizingly different!!

**MANGO TANGO**—A sweet and juicy dance for the senses!! Rich mango, sweet papaya & tart guava create this luscious fragrance. Create your own tropical paradise!

**PARIS**— An exquisite blend of bergamot, rose and wild berries. Truly luxurious and stunning!

**PASSION**—Strawberries sprinkled with vanilla and coconut smothered in whipped cream.

**February's Candle Special—ALL Tyler Candles are **20% Off** thru February 28, 2010!**

***Plant of the Season,***  
***Sponsored by the Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas***  
***Operation NJCE! (Natives Instead of Common Exotics!) – Winter 2010***

**Showy ornamental tree for part-shade to sun:**  
***Eve's Necklace (Sophora affinis, Styphnolobium affine)***

**Description:** Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*, now re-classified to *Styphnolobium affine*), also called Texas Sophora, is native to North Texas and regions south.

This understory tree is a relatively fast growing, usually reaching 15 to 25 feet tall. Its canopy can reach 20 feet wide at maturity. It has alternate pinnately compound leaves 8 inches long, with many individual leaflets, giving the foliage a delicate appearance. The leaves are deep green on top and somewhat paler on the bottom. Eve's Necklace is deciduous, losing its leaves in the winter.



**Flowers and Fruit:** Eve's Necklace has intensely fragrant spring flowers that bloom for approximately 2 weeks, usually in April. Its white-with-pink blossoms resemble those of pea or wisteria; all are in the legume family. Eve's Necklace takes its name from the showy seed pods that form in the fall and remain on the plant during the winter months after the leaves have fallen from the plant. The black pods are 3 to 6 inches long, resembling beads on a string.

**Planting sites:** Eve's Necklace can be planted in dappled shade to part shade to full sun. It takes well to pruning after it is established, which can be used to shape the tree as desired.

**Watering Instructions:** Eve's Necklace will need supplemental water during the first growing season; after it is established, it will thrive with existing rainfall. It is drought tolerant.

**Comments:** Eve's Necklace is an outstanding addition as an ornamental tree to North Texas gardens. Its fragrant spring flowers are followed by the development of attractive seed pods in the fall, providing an interesting visual texture in the winter garden. Although considered an understory tree, it is a good size for smaller gardens where large trees might overwhelm the yard. Consider using it as an alternative to tall crepe myrtles.

Look for the NICE! Plant of the Season signs and information sheets on your next visit to Shades Of Green. Thank you for using native plants in your landscapes.

Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas  
Meetings are the 4th Thursday in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sep & Oct,  
TWU's ACT building 6:30 pm, 2nd floor.

# Freezer Burn!

## Frosty Effects On Your Garden And What To Do About It!

About every ten years we get an extreme freeze. This winter was one of those times. Many of our marginal plants (Zone 8 plants) suffered freeze damage during this winter's weather. So what to do? Here are some tips:

Foliage on tender plants will turn yellow then brown. Plants like Oleander, Indian Hawthorne, Wax Myrtles, Ligustrum, Gardenias, Palms, and Jasmine were all susceptible. The damaged foliage will fall off or can be trimmed off. Don't worry about that foliage! The damage has been done and it's not coming back.

The stems are the future for re-growth this spring. Refrain from trying to trim damaged stems and branches until you see new growth emerge in March. Trim just above new growth to tidy up and/or reshape damaged plants. If the plant suffered severely and looks horrid just consider replacing it with a new one that is hardier and beautiful now.

Fertilize damaged plants and trees in late February to encourage healthy recovery growth in March. Plants bounce back based on how large and established their root systems are. We've seen shrubs grow three to five feet of new growth from established roots.

If in doubt, bring us pictures, or email them to us. Time can heal freeze damage, be patient.

**Love Your Yard**  
**\$5.00 OFF**  
*When You Buy Two  
 Of These Items Your Yard Needs  
 This February*



*Corn  
 Gluten  
 Meal*

*Green  
 Sand*

*Gardenville 7-2-2*

*Must Present Coupon  
 Not valid with any other offer  
 Expires Feb 28, 2010*



## Become a Shades Of Green Facebook Fan!

- \* You'll get updates on Events, Unadvertised Specials, Bad Weather Preparation, and other items of interest and happenings each month!
- \* Post your favorite garden or plant photos on our Fan page!

**February Events**

**Feb 6—Noon to 1:30  
 Pruning Roses & Perennials with Rob**

**Feb 19-21—Collin County Home & Garden Show  
 Allen Event Center  
 Come See Us There!**

[www.shadesofgreeninc.com](http://www.shadesofgreeninc.com)

## ***Start Anew With A Landscape Too!*** By Jeff McCauley

Considering a new landscape project or addition? If so, consider Shades Of Green's landscape design and installation service. Tired of the cookie cutter builder package that you inherited with the purchase of your home? Let our philosophy of lower maintenance, drought tolerant, environmentally friendly design and installation bring beauty and easy living to your yard and gardens. Do you love watching butterflies? So do we. The right plants and implementation is all you need, no need for the feeders. Has that tree that was once small created so much shade that you are confused about what to do? Let us help you. Shades Of Green is in a unique opportunity to help you with a seven acre nursery of plants, and a knowledgeable sales staff, open 7 days a week to assist you with your concerns and questions. Not everyone can tout that! Call or go to our website soon as we are already getting busy with spring right around the corner. You, your family, and the

butterflies will be glad you took action!



***Beautiful Color,  
Drought Tolerant,  
and Easy to Maintain!***

***Enjoy the Birds and  
Butterflies with a  
Cool Drink This Spring!***



***Gorgeous & Inviting,  
Color & Variety Add up to  
Tremendous Drive-up  
Appeal!***