



SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!  
WATCH FOR SCHOOL ZONES  
& SCHOOL BUSES!

# OPEN Labor Day!

SEPTEMBER 2012

## 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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## Plant Of The Month

**Callicarpa Americana**

Kal - eh - kar - pah ah - mare - eh - KAH - nah

**American Beautyberry**

**By Brice Creelman**



What a great shrub for all youse guys who hate to prune or cut anything back. Beautyberry is covered with purple berries right now and the bigger the shrub (6' x 6' not unheard of), the more berries in the fall. Loved by all kinds of livestock from mockingbirds to armadillos. It prefers shade. Great screen for a wooded border. Will appreciate some extra water in dry summers. Plant with turks cap and pigeonberry. Prune out dead wood only in spring. Enjoy purple berries in the fall. And if

the planets are all in alignment, some kinda nice fall color (yellowish?). Watch for the hard to

find "Welch's Pink" variety with pink berries usually available at the Stephen F. Austin plant sale in East Texas. It's held on Oct 6th this year. Native and easy to grow!



American Beautyberry  
"Welch's Pink"



# Timely Hints

By Rob Wier

**Plant ...** petunias, dianthus, snapdragons, and mums for fall color. Wait on pansies till late September, or better yet, October. You can plant or replace perennials and shrubs now -- just be sure to follow up with proper watering. Our Annual Tree Sale begins on September 14th this year. It's best to plant container trees now, but wait until mid to late October to plant balled and burlapped trees. Plant wildflowers now from seed.

**Prune ...** shrubs as needed to shape, and you can groom your perennials if they are shabby from the summer's heat.

**Fertilize ...** Time for the fall application of **Garden-ville 7-2-2**. This will give everything -- lawns, shrubs, perennials, and trees -- a boost for fall. It's organic and non-burning and helps rejuvenate your soil after the long hot dry summer. Use **Greensand** on evergreen plants such as hollies, magnolias, and live oaks, to maintain a source of iron for healthy foliage. **Dry molasses** applied now will stimulate microbes in the soil that assist in making fertilizers work better and improve the health of your soil.

**Pests ...** Check your crape myrtles for scale. We carry an organic solution -- '**All Seasons Oil**'. Fall webworms have been common also. '**B.T.**' (**bacillus thuringensis**) will control these organically. Ironically, one person's pest is another's pet. We've had numerous people buying parsley and other host plants to feed their caterpillars in the garden. Use '**B.T.**' carefully, as it will kill

these 'pet' caterpillars just as easily.

Fall is a good time to apply **beneficial nematodes** to keep fire ants, grub worms, and fleas under control.

**Water ...** as needed. Remember water **DEEPLY** and less frequently on established plantings and turf grass. Newly planted plants should be hand-watered with a hose **DAILY** (or at least every other day) for the first couple weeks to help them establish.

**Lawns ...** Keep mowing all turf about 2 1/2 - 3" to maintain enough green leaf tissue to store up energy in the roots before winter. Apply **Corn Gluten Meal** in mid to late September for pre-emergent weed control.

## Other miscellaneous tasks ...

- ❖ Fall's cooler weather makes the soil microbes active again. Now is a good time to **top dress beds with compost to enrich the soil.**
- ❖ Trees planted last year or this spring can have their guy wires and stakes removed now.
- ❖ **Put out plant markers** to locate your perennials before they go dormant later this fall.
- ❖ **Use a rain gauge** to see how much rainfall you get at your house. If you receive a half-inch of rain or more, skip watering on your designated watering day.
- ❖ **Mosquito Control:** Put out Mosquito Bits and Mosquito Dunks to control the mosquito larvae.
- ❖ Finally, **reward yourself, get outside and enjoy your gardens this fall!**

\$5 OFF

ANY PURCHASE OF

GARDEN VILLE  
7-2-2 FERTILIZER

NOW IS THE TIME FOR FALL  
APPLICATION!

One Coupon Per Household

Expires September 30, 2012

# Plumes Of Fall

By Rob Wier

September brings our North Texas summer to an end and the beginning of our fall planting season. Throughout most of the year ornamental grasses have grown bushy and full and fall is their time to dazzle us with their plumes of color. Here are our recommendations for our most popular and reliable varieties of perennial grasses by height.

## Small (less than 3' tall)



**Mexican Feather Grass:** *Nassella tenuissima* (*Stipa tenuissima*), TX native, deciduous, full sun/part shade, smaller grass with a very fine, wispy look. Delicate whitish flowers appear in summer. Clumping, spreads by seed. Must have well drained soil. Averages 2' high x 2' wide.

**Seep Muhly:** *Muhlenbergia reverchonii*, TX Native, evergreen, full sun/part shade. Low bunch grass. Fast growing. Straw and mauve fine textured seed head. Can tolerate most soil conditions. Average 2' high x 2' wide.



**'Hameln' Dwarf Fountain Grass:** *Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln'*, deciduous, full sun/part shade, compact rounded grass. Great for mass plantings. Abundant small white cat-tail like plumes in summer. Requires well-drained soil. Full sun is best. 2 1/2' high x 3' wide.

**Little Bluestem:** *Schizachyrium scoparium*, Deciduous, full sun. A clump grass with bluish green foliage for any soil type. Flower spikes emerge late summer. Averages 2 1/2' high x 2' wide. Fall color is bronze to flaming orange. Prefers minimum to zero watering!



## Medium (3' – 5' tall)



**Inland Sea Oats:** *Chasmathium latifolium*, TX native, deciduous, part shade. Also known as Northern Sea Oats. Grows best in rich, fertile soil. Flat flowers look like oats dangling from slender stems. "Oats" turn copper color in fall. Averages 3' high x 2' wide.

**Gulf Muhly:** *Muhlenbergia capillaries*, TX Native, deciduous, full sun/part shade, medium grass with a very fine, wispy look. Looks like a purple cloud in the fall when in bloom. Clumping. Can tolerate moist or dry soils. Averages 3-4' high x 3-4' wide.



**'Adagio' Dwarf Maiden Grass:** *Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio'*, Deciduous, full sun/part shade. Loose clumping habit. Fast growing. Loose pinkish-bronze plumes in summer. Requires well-drained soil. Drought tolerant. Averages 4' high x 4-5' wide.

**'Gold Bar' Dwarf Zebra Grass:** *Miscanthus sinensis 'Gold Bar' PP15193*, Deciduous, full sun/part shade. Smaller variety of the original grass. Lots of horizontal yellow blade stripes. Burgundy flowers emerge in late summer. Tolerant of most soil conditions. Even moisture is best. Averages 4' high x 4' wide.



**Dwarf Pampas Grass:** *Cortaderia sellonana 'Pumila'*, Evergreen, full sun/part shade. A smaller version of the larger dramatic plant looks good massed together. White fluffy blooms late summer to fall. Any soil type is fine but not tolerant of cold and wet sites. Averages 4-5' high x 5-7' wide.



Continued on pg 4, see "Plumes"

## Tall (5' and taller)



**Maiden Grass:** *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gracillimus', deciduous grass, full sun/part shade. Large arching clumping grass. Good vertical shape. Needs plenty of space. Loose cream plumes in summer. Requires well drained soil. Drought tolerant. Averages 5-6' high x 5' wide.

**Lindhimer Muhly:** *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*, TX native, evergreen, full sun/part shade. Medium grass with a very fine, wispy look. Fast growing. Delicate upright bluish green leaves. Whitish spikes, clumping habit. Can tolerate most soil conditions. Averages 5-6' high x 5-6' wide.



**Zebra Grass:** *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Zebrinus', deciduous, full sun/part shade. Ornamental grass that has horizontal banding on the leaves. Looks good as a specimen or grouped together. Likes moisture but needs well drained soil. Averages 6-7' high x 6-7' wide.

**Pampass Grass:** *Cortaderia selloana*, Evergreen, full sun/part shade. A large dramatic plant that looks good massed or used as a screen. White fluffy blooms in late summer to fall. Any soil type is fine but not tolerant of cold and wet sites. Averages 10-12' high x 10-12' wide.



There are many other grasses out there, but these are readily available throughout the year and are all well adapted to our area conditions. Most grasses prefer half-day or more of sun, are drought tolerant and need only minimal care.

# Annual Tree Sale

Sept 14, 2012 – December 31, 2012

Container and B&B Trees 10 gal & larger!

**\$0 - \$599      20% OFF**

**\$600 - \$999      25% OFF**

**\$1000 & UP      30% OFF**

See Sales Associate For Complete Details

Container Trees planted ASAP, B&B planting begins Oct 15, 2012

Extra charges for planting in rock, difficult access, existing tree removal, fence removal, or planting outside a 20 mile radius of the nursery. Sales prices valid for trees planted at one address.

# Trees Boost Home Values

By Jeff McCauley

So many times when I visit someone's property I wonder why trees were not planted 5 years ago! Had that occurred they would be nestled in a shady environment. Trees are good for the environment and when the right varieties are planted correctly they will add value, beauty, wildlife habitat, and energy efficiency with their cast shadows.

When visiting a lot of the new developments that were carved out of farm land and pastures the customers will ask why there are not more birds. Well birds need trees to nest and live in. How many of your large purchases increase in value such as trees. Ok, tell me that your car, boat, camper, RV has gone up in value – I don't think so.

Wooded lots are considered more expensive to the tune of \$5,000 - \$25,000 and are usually wooded with non desirable varieties such as Hackberry, American Elm, or Bois d'Arc which seem to decline over time. For \$5000 - \$25,000 you could purchase a forest and have the varieties and proper location you desire. When purchasing a house would you prefer large established trees or one that is treeless? Research shows that wooded lots sell faster and are contracted for asking price. Trees are a great investment and we at Shades Of Green pride ourselves in stocking a large selection with a knowledgeable staff to assist you. Our 15 acre tree farm has many hand trimmed and nurtured trees enabling us to insure high quality. Remember the best day to plant a tree was yesterday!



2012 Collin County Master Gardeners  
Spring Bulb Sale

For Ordering Info see:

[www.ccmgatx.org](http://www.ccmgatx.org)

We happily support the  
Collin County Master  
Gardeners!



They support good gardening  
And Shades Of Green too!

Let's all grow something  
beautiful!