

JULY 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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July 2012 Plant of the Month

Coreopsis "Full Moon"

By Brice Creelman

Last year we looked at 6 or 7 new varieties of coreopsis looking for a couple that would do well. Most coreopsis or tickseed bloom later in the season so they are easy to overlook in spring.

Full Moon has small leaves and yellow flowers. It grows up to 36" h x 24" w. No insect or disease issues. Large showy lemon-yellow single flowers that start to open in June and continue blooming until frost providing great color thru the summer and fall. Its drought tolerant and long lived. Butterflies are free! Not native. Makes a great cut flower. Definitely deserves a spot in your border. Send pictures please

☺



"I had this coreopsis perform & bloom from May—Christmas last year throughout the 2011 heat wave. Definitely a keeper!"

Rob

Timely Hints

PLANT ...

- ***Add COLOR** to your planting beds if they don't say WOW! It is hot, so add some of those bright, bold colors – hot pinks, yellows, and reds. Periwinkle, Purslane, and Lantana love this heat. Replace those few plants in your containers that are looking weak with something fresh and blooming.
- *Now is the best time to choose Crape Myrtles for color. Be sure to check the mature size for the one you choose and be sure to give it the right space. Remember you can prevent 'Crape Murder' by selecting the correct mature size. Bring a picture and measurements of your space, we will help you!
- *Container trees can be planted as long as you are prepared to water and tend to your new tree properly. For the best chance of success we suggest waiting until fall for B&B (balled and burlapped) trees.

PRUNE ... As needed to shape errant growth. Consider abandoning that old-fashioned hedging technique and let your plants grow naturally. Really, those little meatballs and cubes went out with bell bottoms. Spent blooms and flower stalks can be removed from perennials.

FERTILIZE ... with **Gardenville 7-2-2** for everything if you didn't back in June. Use **Colorscapes, Color Star or Osmocote** on color plantings and pots. Most tropicals bloom on new growth so fertilize well to keep them growing and blooming. For those with Palms, we have a good **Palm Food** to help them.

WATER ... Be 'Water Wise'. Just because we have ample supplies now, don't waste it. Be a good neighbor and help those that are new to the area by showing them how to be 'water wise'. Water when plants need it. Check your plantings regularly throughout the summer. Hand-water individual plants as needed between running the whole sprinkler system. Just because some cities allow you to water twice a week doesn't mean you need to. Use your water wisdom and tools (rain gauge and moisture meter) to determine when and how often your yard needs water. Use automatic mode for vacations (but be sure to have a rain sensor). Potted plants need almost daily hand watering. Put them in shaded areas where the sprinkler can reach them while on vacation or get someone to tend to them while you are away.

PESTS ...

- *Tackle fire ants with a three-pronged attack:
 - 1) **Molasses** drives them out of your yard and improves your soil's health.
 - 2) **'Come and Get It'** is bait which can be used on mounds or over your entire yard.
 - 3) **Mound Drench** those stubborn ant mounds to get back at 'em quickly.
- *Watch for Scale on Crape Myrtles, Hollies, and Magnolias. Spray with **'All Season's Oil'** and smother the little plant suckers.
- *For the fungus among us we carry **'Serenade'** which is a new organic fungicide that controls a broad spectrum of fungal problems.
- *As always, bring us samples – it's hard to make accurate recommendations over the phone.
- * Pick up 'Sandalwood' Mosquito Sticks, and Mosquito Bits & Dunks to keep mosquitoes away.

OTHER BITS AND PIECES...

- *Check our website under the ['Plant Care'](#) link for good summer gardening tips.
- *Check newly planted trees regularly (at least twice weekly) for water. Adjust guy wires if needed, mulch and use **Superthrive™** if needed for stress.
- *Be on the lookout for hummingbirds. Come in and pick up a "Best-1" Feeder, or add some [hummingbird plants](#) to attract them. They can be shy, early morning and late evening are the best times to spot them.
- *Fresh spearmint makes the best 'Mojito' or mint ice tea, mmm refreshing!
- ***Summer is a great time to do Landscape Design & Planning for Fall! See our Coupon!**

Summertime Strategy!

By Rob Wier

Our summer weather patterns bring on the heat. We really do *want* to go out and tend to our landscapes but turn back after opening the door and walking out into what feels like an oven. Ugh! I'll share my summertime gardening strategy with you.

Mornings are ideal. It's light out about 6AM and the coolest it will be all day. This quiet and peaceful time of day is ideal to hand water thirsty plants, pull a few weeds, cut some flowers, pick veggies, and otherwise connect with your yard. A little morning gardening before work helps me start the day with a positive attitude.

When it's hot, take care of yourself from the sun. Wear sunscreen and a hat. Jeans, while warmer, provide protection for your legs and knees while kneeling planting or mulching.

Drink plenty of water. You will sweat a lot when it's this hot, but that 's a natural way to rid our bodies of toxins so it's really a good thing. So drink water to replenish your body. Personally, I'd rather do gardening tasks like planting, pruning, mulching, weeding, and cleaning up than go to a gym and workout.

Monitoring the water needs of your landscape is critical during summer's heat. Plants planted this season (since March) should be checked 3-4 times per week. These new plants have not had time to grow a large enough root system to draw enough moisture from the surrounding soil and tend to dry out faster than more established plants. Use a moisture meter to check near new plants and hand water as needed.

Set your sprinkler to run on a cycle and soak method. Have it run multiple times (i.e. 3 times for 8-10 minutes about an hour between cycles) on your designated watering days. This allows the water to soak in making more available to your landscape. It also reduces runoff. You are paying for this water; there is no reason to water the street! Most cities allow twice a week watering and that is sufficient for maintaining our landscapes and lawns along with hand watering individual plants as needed. Be sure to run through and check your sprinkler every two weeks to make sure it is operating properly. We witness a lot of parched plants and dry yellow lawn spots due to poor sprinkler coverage. In this heat they show themselves quickly.

Late evening about sundown is another time to check on your yard. Tammy & I grill a lot during the summer so I check on the yard while I'm out there. When it cools down we enjoy sitting outside talking and relaxing at the end of the day. We enjoy seeing the birds and butterflies visiting our garden.

So to recap, spend time in your yard when it is cooler for enjoyment and taking care of it. Check on your plantings regularly. You've got a lot invested in your yard so don't let it suffer from neglect. In this heat a couple of days without proper watering can be the difference between blooming or compost material! Enjoy your summer!

It's HOT! 50 Shades Of Green!!

\$50 Off Landscape Design (\$350)

OR

\$20 OFF Landscape Consultation (\$120)

Call Now to Book Your Appointment, Slots will fill fast! Coupon Expires July 31, 2012



Nice Afternoon With Nature

By Rob Wier



Brillo Verde, our Farm just north of Lake Ray Roberts

Sunday afternoon my wife, Tammy, had a group of girlfriends coming over. I was encouraged to go find something fun to do so I packed a cooler and headed to our tree farm, Brillo Verde, outside Collinsville.

First stop was Clark's BBQ in Tioga. I'm thinking they need some Terlingua planters to dress up their new outside patio area as I finish off my

combo plate. When I arrive at the farm I'm greeted at the barn by our head of rodent control, the barn cat JoJo. As I walk the perennials I notice lots of butterflies. White ones (Sulphur's probably), black and blue ones (swallowtails of some sort), and Monarch/ Viceroy's. They move too fast for me to identify but I notice them as they flutter about.



JoJo, our Champion Mouser

I drive thru the tree fields in one of our gators (a farm version of a gas powered golf cart) checking on the trees. I see my favorite resident down in the arbors where we grow the container trees. Mr. Painted Bunting, as he flies in front of me. I stop and turn off the engine to see where he goes. He lands in a Texas Persimmon and hops around in it, eating some sort of insects I suppose. Next I notice a Black Chinned Hummingbird in the top of the tallest Live Oak. He stands guard over his territory lest another Hummer tries to sip nectar from blooms he considers his.



Black chinned Hummingbird

I pull into the shade by the wooded edge of the arbors. Luckily, I have a clipboard and pad from taking notes on the farm. As I start this article from my vantage point a Roadrunner comes out of the woods into the pasture. It makes quick work of a few grasshoppers then retreats into the woods after spotting me.



YUM! Grasshoppers

A female hummingbird buzzes past and begins to feed on the Desert Willows in bloom in front of me. Even though she keeps a low profile it's not long until the male sentinel spots her and chases her away. Mr. Painted Bunting lands not thirty feet from me as if showing off his brightly colored feathers. He is joined by a couple of Cardinals.



Mr. Painted Bunting

How nice it is to stop, sit, listen, and watch the natural world around us. Some of these creatures are too shy to live in town, but many are not. All we have to do is provide the plants they enjoy, we all enjoy them too, and take the time to sit and acknowledge them. We're here to help you enhance your life with plantings that will attract birds, butterflies, and nature's gifts to your yard.