



DECEMBER 2013

# The GREENLEAF

## NEWSLETTER



(972) 890-9820  
FAX (972) 377-2022  
[info@shadesofgreeninc.com](mailto:info@shadesofgreeninc.com)  
[www.shadesofgreeninc.com](http://www.shadesofgreeninc.com)  
[www.shadesofgreenfrisco.com](http://www.shadesofgreenfrisco.com)

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

***Closed December 24 & 25, 2013 & January 1, 2014***

## Building A Better Tree



By Jeff McCauley

Cultivating a "Better Tree" takes a lot of skill and dedication plus a little bit of luck! First, the grower must insure that the baby trees are true to variety. We have seen problem trees that were supposed to be Red Oaks but were actually some sort of mix of Pin Oak or Nuttall Oak. Unfortunately, these like sandy acidic soil which is common in East Texas. In our black alkaline soil they will be a sickly pale green, never grow well and slowly die. If you have one of these, it's not your fault, they look very similar to the untrained eye.

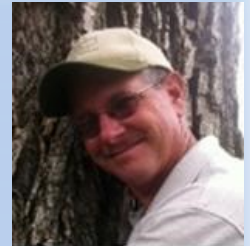
It's important for the sapling to begin with a strong central leader so the tree will grow straight up over time. Next comes the cultural practices of trimming the trees to assure maximum growing conditions. One of the biggest challenges is keeping the tree staked with our prevailing, strong winds; one day from the North then from the South the next day. Usually we don't start trimming until the second year with a little directional trimming. Once the trunks are about the diameter of a broomstick, we can remove the stakes. The following year we start to trim the lower branches so we have a clean trunk to 4 feet. By this time, our baby saplings are 4-5 years old and ready to harvest at 3" caliper (diameter of the trunk 6" off the ground). From that time forward they usually grow another caliper inch each year.



Beautiful Red Oak Grown On  
Our Farm Ready For Its  
Forever Home

All our trees are watered by drip irrigation as needed. They also get 7-2-2 organic Gardenville fertilizer as needed. I could talk about trees forever but got to go to make the newsletter deadline!

# 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. This is the best season to plant Shrubs, Perennials, and Trees! Don't miss our Tree Sale, it ends December 31st! Trees make a gift that nobody returns and they will treasure more every year!

**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'll have pruning classes coming up in January and February. Watch for dates and times on the [Events & Specials](#) page of our website! 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...** Got Rabbits? Animal Stopper helps when you apply it every few weeks. Blood Meal helps, too. So does Cotton Burr compost used as mulch. To bunnies, it has a pungent aroma masking the sweet smell of the pansies. 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 ...** Turn your sprinkler system from AUTO to OFF. Turn it on manually if needed this winter. Rarely do you need to water unless we go 3 or more weeks without rainfall. [Subscribe to Frisco's waterwise email](#) and they will send weekly water advice to your inbox. You can subscribe even if you live outside of Frisco or check and see if your city provides the same service. 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 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 attention just as much as a new puppy.



# Berry, Berry Good!



By Rob Wier

We are lucky to have a large number of berry producing plants that thrive in our area. They provide winter food for the birds and other critters, and add a splash of color and interest to our gardens too! Test your gardening knowledge and fill in our mix & match quiz—match the picture to the berry producing plant name. We will even get you started with the first answer. Email your answers to [info@shadesofgreeninc.com](mailto:info@shadesofgreeninc.com) by lucky Friday, December 13, 2013. Everyone with 10 or more correct answers will receive a \$10 OFF any purchase coupon. Look for your coupon in your inbox and the correct answers on our Facebook page Monday, Dec 16. Good luck!

- |                       |                            |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| A) Carolina Buckthorn | F) Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum | K) Nellie R Stevens Holly  |
| B) Possum Haw Holly   | G) East Palatka Holly      | L) Eastern Red Cedar       |
| C) Nandina domestica  | H) Pigeon Berry            | M) Pinkie Indian Hawthorne |
| D) Texas Madrone      | I) American Beauty Berry   |                            |
| E) Yaupon Holly       | J) Coral Berry             |                            |



## My Answers:

1. D
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_

*Pictures #5-13 on page 4*



Berry, Berry Good Mix & Match Quiz continued from Page 3





# Annual Tree Sale

**\*\*\* Hurry Sale ENDS December 31, 2013 \*\*\***  
**Container and B&B Trees 10 Gal & Larger!**

<b>\$0 — \$599</b>	<b>10% OFF</b>
<b>\$600- \$999</b>	<b>20% OFF</b>
<b>\$1000 &amp; UP</b>	<b>30% OFF</b>

*Psssst-  
Trees  
Make A  
Great  
Gift*

See Sales Associate For Complete Details

Container Trees planted ASAP, B&B planting begins Oct 15, 2013 (buy early and be first on the list!)  
Extra charges for planting in rock, difficult access, existing tree removal, fence removal, or planting outside a 20 mile radius of the nursery. Discounts valid for trees planted at one address.

## What's In A Warranty?

On January 1, 2013 we updated our warranty to 30 days on plants. And we provide a 1 year warranty on trees that we plant.



By Rob Wier

With this change we have noticed that customers are taking a much more active role in caring for their plants. We can help you get started on the road to gardening happiness with plant selections, soil preparation, after care instructions, and of course, providing the highest quality plant material. The 30 day warranty on the plants encourages people to water, care, nurture, and pay a little more attention to their investment in living plants once they are in the ground.

Has it worked? We have had a decrease of about 80% in plant replacements in our installed landscape projects this year alone. Plus we've seen the added benefit of the projects looking more vibrant and full due to the added care you have given your newly installed plants. Good job, everyone!

Our goal here is to help you be a happy and successful gardener. Our reasonable warranty helps accomplish this. Just as our philosophy of providing only well-adapted plant varieties that work best in our area gets you started on the path of a happy and successful gardener.

As always, we appreciate your patronage over the years. It's great to grow with you!

