

APRIL 2013

The GREENLEAF



NEWSLETTER

HOURS: MON - SAT 8:00 A.M. TO 6:30 P.M.
SUN 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

(972) 890-9820
FAX (972) 377-2022
info@shadesofgreeninc.com
www.shadesofgreeninc.com

Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Purplish-Violet



By Brice Creelman

This month looks like we have some brand new plants to this area and some tried and true old favorites. All these plants are easy to grow, hardy both summer and winter and fit in with our sustainable landscape plantings. Oddly enough, for the first time ever, none of these plants are native. Let's hope this doesn't happen again. For lists of great native plants see our website.

In alphabetical order, of course:

Agastache 'Summer Love'

We have four new Agastache this year. We love them and so do hummingbirds. Fragrant foliage may keep rabbits at bay. They all like well-draining soil, so plant high and dry. Cut back in spring when you see new rosettes of growth. 'Summer Love' has huge red-purple flowers that show up in a landscape. Even Jimmy Turner at the Dallas Arboretum approves of 'summer Love'. Full sun best, 24" tall and 24" wide. Very little water once established.



Agastache Summer Love



Heucherella Buttered Rum

Heucherella 'Buttered Rum'

Cross between Heuchera (coral bells) and Tiarella (foamy bells) delivering the best of both worlds. Holds up well in our heat but must have shade. Excellent in patio pots or in the ground. 8" tall x 15" wide. Well drained soils. Mix some compost in when planting. White flowers in late spring. Hummers galore! Use it for it's foliage. Copper colored, maple-like leaves provide year round interest. Great for those who like a drink in their garden.

Continued on pg. 3, see "Something Old"



TIMELY HINTS

By Rob Wier

PLANT...Annual Color now! Our selection and quality is excellent! Be patient and wait until the soil is warmer to plant Caladiums, Impatiens ... etc ... later into April. We'll have Periwinkles and the large flowering Zinnias in May when the time is right – again be patient. We specialize in Native Texas Perennials and right now our selection is **OUTSTANDING**. Brice always grows beauties for us. Come on in and feast your eyes. Of course you can plant trees, specimen hollies, all shrubs, roses, vines, and groundcovers now. Tropicals are beginning to come in now and the selection will grow as the season permits. We have several beautiful color bowls planted up and ready for you – come on in and choose some to brighten your front porch and patio. Or let these creations bring out your inner artist and come in and create your own from our large selection of color!

FERTILIZE...with **Gardenville 7-2-2** if you did not do so in February or March. If you procrastinated, it's ok ... it's organic! Seriously consider avoiding any weed & feed products. We do not recommend them or trust them – they are dangerous for your trees and shrubs. Foliar feed your plants as they begin to grow with **Maxicrop® Seaweed**, **Garrett Juice**, or **John's Recipe**. Apply **Colorscapes** when planting your annuals, perennials, and planting your color bowls. Re-apply every 4-6 weeks to keep your plants green and blooming. It's that easy. Don't forget to use your **Superthrive™** on anything newly planted or neglected and stressed – it IS a miracle product!

PRUNE...to maintain form only.

WATER...keep sprinklers **OFF** of their 'automatic' setting. Run manually if we have a dry period (a couple of weeks without rain) to supplement between the spring rains. Check and hand-water newly planted plants if needed, every couple of days for the first two weeks to insure they get settled in. Get weekly watering notices emailed to you from Frisco's water department by clicking [here](#). They have a weather station to monitor conditions and provide weekly watering recommendations. Please, be active and monitor your watering needs, and follow your city's watering restrictions.

PESTS...look out for Cankerworms in your trees. These larva hang from your trees on thin almost transparent threads and can strip trees of their new foliage. Use **Bacillus Thurengiensis** (BT) as a biological control. Safe for people, pets, and wildlife. Control Slugs (those slimy little critters) with **Sluggo**. Be on the watch for Scale on plants – especially Crape Myrtles. Use **All Seasons Oil** to control. We have an organic fungicide called **Serenade** that can be used to prevent a wide variety of fungal diseases. We also have **Ladybugs**. Come see us to learn how to use them in your gardens.

Control fungal diseases on your roses with an application of **Horticultural Corn Meal** ... apply on the root zone and lightly scratch it into the soil. There's still time to apply **Dry Molasses** for Fire Ants. They hate it and it increases the microbial activity in the soil. Plus, before you know it you'll have a large population of earthworms, which is a really good thing!

OTHER ...

- ☼ Get outside with your family ... this is the absolute **best time** of year here in North Texas to enjoy your outdoors. Grill up some dinner and eat 'al fresco' in the backyard!
- ☼ Maintain 1-1½" mulch on your beds to conserve water.
- ☼ If you grow more than enough veggies, share them with your neighbors, or with the food pantry at Frisco Family Services.

Visit www.shadesofgreeninc.com
For Promotions and Events! LIKE us on [Facebook](#) too!

“Something Old”, Continued from pg. 1

Iris x Louisiana ‘Black Gamecock’

Louisiana Iris has been around a long time. Hybridizes easily so there are hundreds of colors available. Black Gamecock has deep blue-purple blooms in spring. Black Gamecock gets 24” tall and spreads fast in a wet spot or edge of a water feature. Does not like it dry. Heirloom plant that has been here longer than us. Easy to share with your furry friends. Divide in Sept-Oct. Green side up plant for sure!



Pennisetum ‘Piglet’

This miniature fountain grass tops out around 18” tall and wide. Unlike ‘Lil’Bunny’ which struggles here. ‘Piglet’ does fine in the ground and can also be used in patio pots. Grows ½ size of Pennisetum ‘Hamelin’. Plumes in late summer. Hard to say ‘Piglet’ without laughing, which makes it worth having in your garden.

Phlox paniculata ‘John Fanick’

This hybrid phlox was found in a garden in San Antonio years ago by Greg Grant, and was named for a well known and respected nurseryman there. We don’t put much faith in upright phlox due to powdery mildew and a tendency to fall over on our windy days. No problem for ‘John Fanick’. Strong stems hold up well with pink and white blooms through summer. Cut back to keep in bloom. 24” tall x 12” wide. Back of border, please.



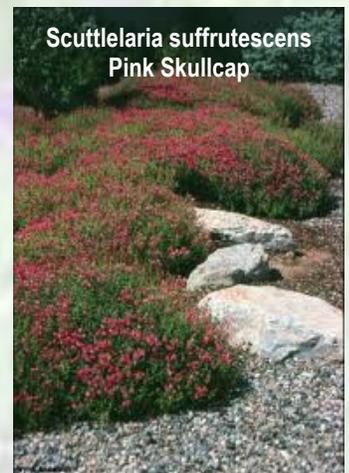
Salvia Heatwave ‘Blaze’

We are real excited about his Australian hybrid. Yeah, we get used to everyone taking our native plants out of Texas and working with them, and sometimes they make them better. Such is the case here. Blooms earlier and longer than the Salvia greggi species we are familiar with. Grows faster and fuller. It doesn’t get woody like our natives. Don’t know what the crosses are to get this plant: S. greggi and S. microphylla or S. lemoni. Doesn’t matter. This one is definitely a nice addition to

your salvia garden. Cut often to promote bloom. Full sun is best. 24”-30” tall. Four other colors available.

Scutellaria suffrutescens Pink Skullcap

I remember saying this would be a Top Ten plant once people got to know it. This happened last year. Love that we are selling so many. Very easy to grow and take care of. Native to Mexico. Tiny pink snapdragon-like blooms cover the plant from April till November. Very compact. Our labels lie when they say 4”-6”. More like 12”-18”. Will billow out of a container or over a wall. Great planted with roses. Heck, its’ great planted with anything. Cut back in spring. Then, don’t touch it. Best in sun. Some shade ok.



Continued on pg. 4, see “Something New”

“Something New”, Continued from pg. 3

Sedum x Desert Red, ‘Desert Black’

Most sedums don’t excite me, but once in awhile one comes along with that certain look. Must see to be appreciated. (I meant that too.) Desert series have dark, almost black foliage that keeps its black color in summer. Bred by Terra Nova who brought you hundreds of Heucheras. Flat, spreading habit. 10” x 10”. Butterflies will visit. Try in a patio pot hanging over the side with Sedum ‘lemon coral’. Rose pink flowers later summer through fall. Don’t judge it the first year. Needs to get established to come into its own.



Sedum x Desert Red, Desert Black



Sedum Pulchellum ‘Sea Stars’

Sedum Pulchellum ‘Sea Stars’

This is another sedum one that excites! Kinda like Sedum ‘Thundercloud.’ Excellent foliage. Unfortunately, no one thought much of ‘Thundercloud,’ and it will probably fade away to become a collector’s must-have. ‘Sea Stars’ grows 6-8” tall and 12” wide. Grows fast. (White flowers, I think. Not sure yet.) Excellent in drought tolerant plantings and in containers. Hard to find, easy to grow. Arboretum approved and Shades Of Green approved. Hope you approve.

Veronica ‘Hocus Pocus’

We’ve been searching for some good speedwells for a long time. They are not too keen on our long seasons and tend to be short-lived. Last couple of years Veronica ‘Purplelicious’ looked really good but has pretty much been discontinued. Hate when that happens. Hocus Pocus bloom spikes branch so it blooms for a long time. Violet-purple wands are quite long and loved by butterflies. (notice how no new plants have just one color flower?) 16”-20” tall. Cut back when blooming slows. Small enough for patio pots. Large enough to fill you up at lunch.



Veronica Hocus Pocus

\$5 OFF
Any Purchase over \$30

\$10 OFF
Any Tree \$100 Or More

Please present coupon, One per customer please, Expires April 30, 2013

See Our [Events](#) page or [Facebook](#) for a schedule of our Saturday 10-11AM gardening mini-classes

10+ Everyday Special!
Buy 10 or more & SAVE Every DAY

Examples:
 1 Gal Perennials (10+) \$8 ea Reg. \$8.99
 5” Perennials (10+) \$4.50 ea Reg. \$4.99

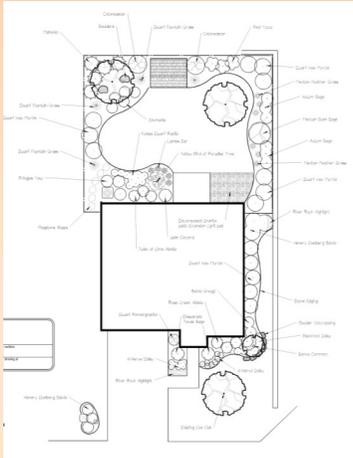
And More! - See Store for details on other 10+ items!

Putting Together A Landscape Design



By Jeff McCauley

Shades of Green has been successfully designing and installing quality projects for over 30 years. When we first started as young aspiring college graduates from Texas A&M we would do just about anything garden related to help our new company survive. Over the years, we have become one of the premier firms specializing in native landscapes and well-adapted nurseries in the region.



Landscape planning is a three step process beginning with an onsite consultation. This is a very important step where we discuss your thoughts and ideas and discover the specific characteristics of your site. We will ascertain the drainage situation, sun exposure, the existing trees and other structures, and the winds and soil conditions. With this information, and photos of the property, we put together a scaled design that is labeled and very legible. This is where we spend the largest amount of time on carefully selecting the “*Right Plant for the Right Place.*” This process is what will make your new landscape have that natural look while being easy to maintain and well suited to the soil and variable weather

conditions in our area.



Capitalize on terrain you may have

Next, we’ll schedule another meeting to present and review the design with you. We can discuss any questions and concerns together. Changes can be made at this time to fit your wants and needs.



Backyard Entertaining

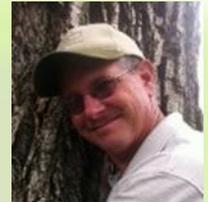
In the “old days”, landscapes used to be a conglomeration of common plants with monkey grass and a couple of annual color beds with some green steel edging. Boy how times have changed! Plants are just one element we use along with features like dry river beds, stone pathways, different types of stone borders, stone edges and boulders (none of these needs water!). Irrigations and drainage systems are an important part of the equation. Then there are other hardscape elements including different surfaces, outdoor living areas, custom fencing, fire pits, fountains, garden art, and more.



A Lighted Fountain provides soothing sound & night time interest.

We will create the blueprint to put it all together. All these elements are what make a beautiful, practical and functional, natural landscape come to life! With Spring’s arrival, our calendar is filling up fast so contact either myself, [Jeff McCauley](#) or the newest member of the design staff, [Casey Wier](#), to get started on your outdoor living area. Visit our [landscape gallery](#) on our website, www.shadesofgreeninc.com to see photos of our work, and learn more about the process. Remember, the best time to plant was yesterday!

Plants In, Plants Out . . . Revisited



By Rob Wier

Every April, our nursery is buzzing with activity. Trucks come in daily to unload plants, all kinds of vehicles (cars, trucks and trailers) pull out loaded with plants. I spend a lot of time procuring and ordering fresh plants to arrive each week. It's one part of my job that I really enjoy! However, I **really** enjoy seeing those great plants when they get picked up and taken home to adorn your yard.



No doubt it appears as simple as "Plants In, Plants Out", yet there is a lot that goes on to make it work. We have many different growers that produce the plants we offer. They tell us what is available, and send us the best of the best of each crop we order. We've done business with them long term and they know how particular we are about quality. Even though I order a lot of the plants, our amazing staff checks the quality of the plants when unloading. We all have a vested interest in providing a predictable quality to you, our customers. On occasion we do return substandard plants.

Of course, we also receive a lot of wonderful plants from our own farm. Brice knows what varieties you like first-hand and delivers these locally grown beauties almost daily during April. Talk about "fresh from the farm!" As a side note Brice mentored a young lady, Alexis, for years while she attended Celina High School, and for a few summers while attending college. She went on to get a

BS and a Masters degree in Horticulture from Texas A&M. She is now the head grower of perennials at a large wholesale nursery in South Texas. Some of the perennials we offer came via Alexis. Brice and Alexis make us all proud!

We unload and display our plants so you can take note of their beauty. We water and care for them until you select them. Once again, occasionally some lose that quality we seek, so they get "cut from the team". Those deemed viable may even get to go for rehab in our own employees gardens!



April is our busiest month, because all of us gardeners just cannot resist planting something in the spring. So no doubt quite a few plants will find permanent residence in our area after a short stop at Shades Of Green.

It's April, so let's plant something! We have the plants coming in, we'll let you decide which ones to take out!