



FEBRUARY 2014

# 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

We will be **CLOSED** the **FIRST SUNDAY** in February!

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## Stir Crazy ... and Ready for Spring!



By Tammie Jost

It is COLD. I'm looking out the window at bare trees, hoping for spring.

The remains of the Baltimore Orioles' nests hang in the branches of the pecan trees. Most likely they will return this year and nest close by — their bright color showing through the leaves. Fresh fruit was set out for them this past spring. Now the feeder is hanging empty.

Winter, even short winters in north Texas, make us introspective.

What is a gardener supposed to do? It's just about time to plan for spring. Is this the year you'll decide to dig up that old ugly area that has been bugging you?

Will you turn it into a shrub bed? A groundcover area? Does it need a little bright color to draw the eye? A garden changes with the seasons over the years. Make sure your landscape selections will give you pleasure in all seasons, changing and evolving over time.

Remember To Visit [www.shadesofgreeninc.com](http://www.shadesofgreeninc.com)  
For Promotions and Events!

# TIMELY HINTS

**PLANT...** Cool season annual color such as **Alyssum, Snapdragons, 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 join us for our **[Tree Pruning Class on Saturday, February 15th at 2:00p.m.](#)**, if you need guidance. (See pg.3 for more information.) Remember prune with a purpose. Only **you** can prevent "Crape Murder"! Prune roses in mid-month. Prune groundcovers late in the month to tidy up. Wait till March to prune on freeze damage.

**FERTILIZE...** Late February (around the 17<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>) is time to fertilize your whole yard with **Gardenville 7-2-2.** Lawns, beds, vegetable gardens, shrubs, and trees all will benefit. Download our article **['How To Fertilize Your Tree'](#)** from our website, or pick up a copy at the nursery.

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 at least 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 too busy now so it's a good time to get one if you don't have one. **Please continue to be responsible with your water use.**

**PESTS...** Use **Dormant Oil** to control scale on Crape Myrtles, Hollies, Live Oaks, and other plants. Remember, the first step is to identify the pests, 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 ['Organic Gardening 101 and Calendar'](#) at the nursery or download it from our website.]***

**OTHER...** Got Bunnies? – We have a great product in the nursery we have been using to stop rabbit damage on our plants. "**Animal Stopper**" is available both as a granular or liquid product and has been keeping the rabbits at bay for us. 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. It will work better than Mr. McGregor's garden fence!





By Rob Wier

# FEED THE BIRDS WITH CRAPE MYRTLES!

Spending some time at our home in the Hill Country involves feeding the birds. We enjoy watching the variety of birds that come to our feeders and bird bath. We have a mature 'Natchez' Crape Myrtle by the barn and I noticed a dozen finches feeding on the bloom pods. Every day these little birds meticulously picked the seed out of the pods, sometimes even hanging upside down to accomplish their goal. I've noticed the same at the nursery. A flock of little birds picking the nursery stock clean of their seed.

A simple observation, but another reason you do not need to prune off all the seed pods of your Crape Myrtle for it to bloom next season. Even though Crape Myrtles are not native to the Americas (native to China) we enjoy them as a blooming ornamental tree and even our wildlife enjoy the bloom pods as a food source.

I may not be at the nursery, but I'm still glad to continue sharing. I hope you are enjoying your garden as I am enjoying mine.



## Free Pruning Class!



Saturday, February 15, 2014  
2:00 p.m.

This will be a hands-on class!  
Bring your hand pruners, loppers, or hedge shears.

We will start by covering basic tools, their use, and care. We will then demonstrate different pruning cuts on actual plants in the nursery from perennials to trees.

Come on out and join us!! Bring your spouse, a neighbor, and especially any 'Crape Murderers' you know of.

**We'll be giving away a Corona hand pruner as a door prize!**

**Follow us on  
Twitter  
and Instagram!**



**@SOGNursery**

**NICE! (Natives Instead of Common Exotics!)  
Plant Of The Season – Winter 2014**

**CAROLINA JESSAMINE**

*Gelsemium sempervirens*

Perennial evergreen vine with blooms in late winter to early spring

By Dr. Becca Dickstein

**Description:** Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) also known as Yellow Jessamine and Evening Trumpetflower, is native from Virginia south to Florida and west as far as east Texas. Its abundance in the southeastern US gives Carolina Jessamine its common name; it is also the state flower of South Carolina. Carolina Jessamine is a twining vine that can grow to 20 feet tall. It is usually evergreen in North Texas with glossy dark-green foliage that may develop a bronze or purple cast in winter. Its lanceolate leaves are 1 to 3 inches long. Its native habitat includes thickets and woods.



Photo courtesy of Joe Marcus,  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

**Flowers and Seeds:** Carolina Jessamine usually blooms between February and April, but may bloom as early as December or as late as May. It produces an abundance of one to one and a half inch long fragrant yellow trumpet-shaped flowers that may cover the vine at its peak. Subsequently, inch long small brown fruit appear bearing seeds.

**Planting Sites:** Carolina Jessamine thrives in full sun and partial shade, although it blooms more profusely with more sun. It is considered easy to grow as long as it has rich soil and adequate water. It will tolerate a range of soil pH, including alkaline soils.

**Watering Instructions:** Like many east Texas natives, Carolina Jessamine will need regular supplemental water when it is grown in North Texas, especially during a typical summer even after it is established. It can tolerate brief drought conditions once it is established. Carolina Jessamine should be planted where it will receive adequate drainage; it will not tolerate “wet feet.”

**Comments:** Although Carolina Jessamine is usually grown as a vine and can be used to cascade over mailboxes, trellises and arbors, it also may also be grown as a ground cover on hilly banks. It is suitable to grow in a container. After blooming each year, Carolina Jessamine may be pruned to remove broken or dead branches and to shape the plant. An especially attractive double-flowered cultivar called 'Pride of Augusta' is available in the nursery trade. Carolina Jessamine is not browsed by deer and usually not bothered by insects or diseases, but it is also toxic to humans and livestock. Its sap may cause skin irritation in sensitive people and children can be poisoned by chewing or sucking on the flowers.

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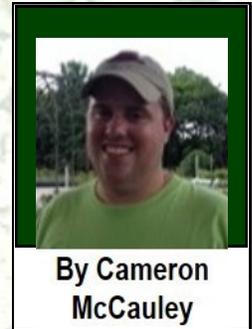
**Plant of the Season, Sponsored by the Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas Operation**

Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas Meetings are the 4th Thursdays in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Sep & Oct at 6:30 pm, in TWU's Ann Stuart Science Complex, in Denton, TX.

[www.npsot.org/TrinityForks](http://www.npsot.org/TrinityForks)

# Another Texas Winter That Can't Make Up Its Mind

Can this winter weather just make up its mind? I am sitting here writing this with windy, 30-degree weather outside, yet just the day before us North Texans were enjoying a nice 75-degree day. The best thing you can do is bundle up in a winter coat before bearing the elements, but how do your plants handle all of this extreme temperature change?



By Cameron  
McCauley

It is best to cover tender annuals such as Pansies with a frost cloth the night before we get a morning with the temperature in the teens (if you haven't already been doing so). Make sure palms and other cold tender tropical trees are covered with burlap around the trunk and the growth point (a bungee cord might help.) If you're using mostly well-adapted plants, no need to worry! We sell a variety of perennials that are suitable for this type of climate in the cold, dormant season. They will start showing some color in a matter of weeks!

Although spring is only about six weeks away, we weren't over with the frost last year until late March. February is best utilized as a "prep month", meaning its time to get everything ready for spring!

February is also one of the recommended times of year to add soil amendments. Put down **Gardenville 7-2-2** in the beds, yard and around the base of trees this month. It is also a good time to apply greensand, especially to evergreen trees and shrubs. Evergreens need supplemented nutrients from the iron in the greensand after losing them through the winter months.

It is also the perfect month to **MULCH!** Spread a 2" layer of mulch in your beds and around your trees. The mulch not only provides temperature regulation for your plants, but also gives your beds a clean look heading into spring.

Just think, only a half dozen weeks until we are finished bearing these winter elements. And your plants are likely more excited than you about it!

## *Smiling Faces Wanted For Part-Time Spring Help*

If you *LOVE* gardening and thrive in an upbeat, service-focused, outdoor environment, we have an opportunity for you!  
We will be adding to our part-time nursery sales staff. Here is what we will be looking for:

- A smiling face and helpful attitude is a *MUST*.
- Local Plant knowledge is a plus.
- Gardening and retail experience very helpful.
- Weekend availability especially helpful.
- Non-smokers will be preferred.

If this describes you, please come in and fill out an application. Or you can fax your resume to 972-377-2022, Attn: Randy, or email to [randy@shadesofgreeninc.com](mailto:randy@shadesofgreeninc.com) and use 'Employment' in the subject line.

We plan to interview, hire, and train staff in February, and have you **BUSY** in March through May!

# Don't Forget Your Valentine!

We are here to help you show your appreciation and adoration for your loved ones!

*T*houghtful *I*deas ...

- A Gift Certificate ... For Anything Their Heart Desires
- The Sweet Melody of a Wind Chime
- A Culinary Herb Garden or Cheerful Color Bowl
- A Rose Bush
- An Inspirational Gardening Book
- Unique Mosaic Statuary

... and the list goes on and on!



February Coupon  
For The Love  
Of Your Yard



**\$5.00 OFF**



**WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY TWO OF THESE PRODUCTS**

**Garden-Ville 7-2-2 Fertilizer  
Corn Gluten Spreadable  
Greensand**



**YOUR YARD WILL THANK YOU!!**

Must Present Coupon

Not Valid With Any Other Offer

Expires Feb. 28, 2014