

BLUEBONNET HERB FARM

2105 13TH ST.
HEMPSTEAD, TX 77445
(979) 826-4290

<http://bluebonnetherbfarms.com/>



Wow! I can't believe 2009 is here already. If you haven't been to visit in a while things have changed quite a bit. We have put in a pergola and arbor out in front and a meandering creek bed that winds from the back to the front yard. We will be landscaping the back yard so that diners can enjoy their lunch outside, since we have a great new Cafe coming here in March. The food will be excellent. We are getting our spring herbs and plants in weekly because spring is just around the corner. So here are a few tips on what your gardens will need.

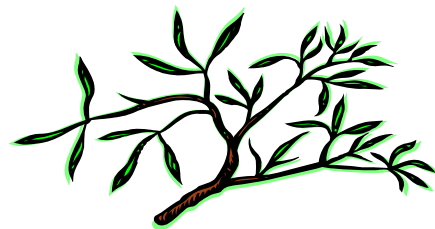
February is a great time to plant fruit trees. Be sure to prune early prior to spring blooming time. Camellias, fruit trees and other plants should be sprayed now for scale infestation. Dormant oil will smother out scale insects. Bury or discard any dried fruit to reduce disease problems. February is the time to plant Irish and new potatoes before the hot weather sets in. Now is when you start planting gladiolas. Plant at two week intervals to extend your flowering season into summer. Continue feeding your violas, pansies, stock, snapdragons, and nasturtiums every 4 to 6 weeks. Keeping the soil moist will encourage bloom production and vigor. Trim back your herbs that are starting to look leggy so that they will become full and healthy as it gets warmer. This is a good time to add manure and compost to trees and shrubs so that when spring rains come, the materials will

be ready to release nutrients to the roots of your plants. Late winter is a wonderful time to plant roses. Bare root roses should go in the ground soon so the roots will be established by the time the heat arrives in the summer. Repeat blooming roses

should be pruned just before spring growth, in late winter. Climbing roses and one time bloomers should be pruned after spring. Dormant oil sprays can be applied now before new growth begins, to control scales insects on camellias, euonymus, and beautyberry. By February your pruning of deciduous fruit trees, bushes and vines should be

New Arrivals!

Shrubs, Ornamental Trees, Roses- Hermosa, New Dawn, Mutabilis, and More. Come see us for ideas on how to make your yard paradise.



coming to an end. Remove dead, unproductive wood and thin branches. Vines and fruit trees require a significant amount of pruning, although blueberries and pears require very little.

In March azaleas need to be sprayed each week as the flowers open to avoid petal blight. After blooming, fertilize, and prune. Camellias need to be sprayed for tea scale, and lightly fertilized. Fertilize all shrubs, roses, and plants with a fast acting fertilizer for rapid spring growth. March is a good month to plant herbs. Plant hydrangeas with

a northern exposure, they enjoy good drainage and a lot of peat moss, and mulch mixed into the soil. Roses should be put on a monthly feeding plan. Spray weekly for black spot. Roses require 6" of water per week. Vegetables can be planted now, weather permitting. Interplanting with herbs can help repel some insects. Gardening can be relaxing and very rewarding. So Happy Gardening!

ATTRACTING BIRDS

Every gardener dreams of beautiful lush gardens filled with color, life, and the peaceful songs of birds. However, birds have specific requirements that must be met before we can enjoy their benefits. Here are a few things that you can do to make your backyard a home for a wide variety of birds. As a gardener, birds have many benefits, they help us by pollinating plants, dispersing seed, and eating bugs that could be harmful to our plants or garden. Since we benefit from birds it's especially



important to know how to attract them. Birds require only 3 necessities...housing, water and food.

When providing housing for birds it is important to know how high birdhouses should be up off the ground, how far apart birdhouses should be spaced apart, what kinds of nesting materials you should provide, and what kinds of artificial housing birds will actually use. When creating artificial housing for birds, be sure to place houses at least 5ft. off of the ground, and 200-300ft. apart from each other. Birds will not nest in crowded conditions. The average suburban backyard can only support 1 or 2 bird families. Also, be sure to place birdhouses in partial sun and if your birdhouse is fastened to a pole be sure that it

is secure and will not sway in the wind. When buying a birdhouse, try to buy one made of wood. Birdhouses made of other materials have been known to "cook" young in the heat of summer. Also, make sure that the house has many ventilation holes as well as drainage holes. A perch on a bird house is not necessary. It is actually better to find a house without one. Having a perch makes it easier for predators to attack the nest. If you don't wish to provide artificial housing, some birds may seek shelter in your trees or shrubs. Evergreens are best for birds to nest in because they provide shelter all year long. Birds tend to look for a wide variety of

Did you know?

By planting lavender in your garden it enhances pollination; since bees are attracted to lavender's sweet aroma.

materials to build their nests. These include: yarn, twine, feathers, duck or goose down, rabbit or dog fur, horse hair, twigs, and dried grass. When providing yarn and twine make sure that none of the pieces exceed 4" in length. Never include sewing thread or fishing line in your offerings, birds may get tangled in it. After each summer when the birds abandon their nest, be sure to remove all nesting materials to encourage birds to use the birdhouse. Birds will not nest where there has already been a nest that's why it's especially important to remove all traces of the previous residents and to make sure that you're attracting the right crowd. Hornets and bees may also try to make their home in birdhouses.

To attract a wide variety of birds try placing feed at a different heights to attract ground-feeding birds as well as other birds. If you decide to use a commercial bird feeder be sure to keep it clean to prevent the seed from molding and from being contaminated by bird droppings. Birds have a very diverse diet. Some like fruit, some

like seed, some eat bugs, and some just want sweet nectar from your flowers. If you decide to buy bird feed try to find some with sunflower seeds or a variety mix to attract Texas's finest. These include, blue jays, cardinals, mocking birds and the chickadee. Be sure to keep fresh, clean water available for our feathered friends.

If you are trying to attract song birds here are a few plants that will draw in song birds: asters, tickseed, cosmos, millet, echinacea, and zinnias. Song birds will take shelter in cedar trees, viburnum, live oaks, hollies, and pines. When attracting hummingbirds, try planting bright colorful flowers such as: columbines, butterfly bushes, trumpet vines, fuchsias, impatiens, bee balm, scented geraniums, penstemons, petunias, phlox, salvias, pineapple sage, firecracker plant, duranta, and the Texas star hibiscus. Birds are such a pleasant addition to any garden.

Did You Know?

Cucumbers have a diuretic effect that neutralizes the uric acid in joints that are affected by gout. They also prevent bladder and kidney stones.

Herb of the Month

Ginger is a tropical plant with aromatic flowers. It grows up to the height of 2-3 ft. tall and it requires moist, fertile soil and light shade. Today ginger is grown throughout the world. Ginger is an important ingredient in Chinese and Japanese cuisine and has become one of the main ingredients in making all-American pumpkin pies. Ginger is not only a spice for culinary uses but it also aids in digestion of fatty foods and other medicinal uses, such as: treating motion sickness, relieving earaches, spinal, joint pains, congestion, gout, and arthritis. Ginger is know as warming herb that stimulates circulation and promotes sweating, reduces fevers, relieves colds and alleviates pain. Drinking a strong ginger tea may provide relief from varicose veins since ginger acts as an anti-inflammatory and it stimulates blood flow.

Garlic Ginger Pork Roast Recipe

Boneless pork loin roast is studded with garlic and then marinated in a fresh garlic, onion, ginger and honey mixture. Prep time: 10 minutes Cook time: 1 hour, 45 minutes. This recipe makes 4-6 servings.

What You Will Need:

- 2 large cloves garlic, Divided use
- 2-1/2 to 3 pounds of boneless pork loin roast
- ¼ cup minced onion
- ¼ cup of lime juice
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon of Worcestershire sauce
- 1-1/2 teaspoons of spicy hot mustard or Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon fresh-grated ginger
- Kosher salt and fresh-ground to taste

Preparation: Cut 1 clove of the garlic lengthwise into thin slivers. Use a skewer to poke holes all around the garlic. Then set aside. Force the remaining clove of garlic through a garlic press into a large zip-lock bag. Add the onion, lime juice, honey, Worcestershire sauce, and ginger to the garlic. Squish the bag to combine the marinade ingredients.

Add the garlic-studded pork loin roast to the marinade in the bag. Squeeze out all the air and seal. Turn the bag over and over so the roast is surrounded by the marinade. Refrigerate for 8 hours or over night.

Remove pork roast from the Refrigerator 1 hour before cooking and let it come to room temperature in the bag.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line a roasting pan with heavy foil. Place pork roast in the prepared pan. Top with the marinade and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake uncovered, for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Remove from oven, cover with foil, and let rest for 30 minutes before slicing and serving.

Recipe provided by: www.homecooking.about.com

Did You Know?

When applying honey to an open wound will aid in the healing process and disinfect minor wounds.

STORE HOURS
MONDAY THRU SATURDAY
9AM-5PM