
M. Bloomers

A Garden Journal

Martha's Bloomers

November 2009

Volume 7, Issue 1

Upcoming Events
@
Martha's Bloomers

Holiday
in the
Garden

Open House
Thursday 11/19 - Saturday 11/21
The Evening Event
November 20
5:30 pm

CATTAILS

the boutique

Jewelry
Millinery
Fragrance
Accessories
Opening
in
November

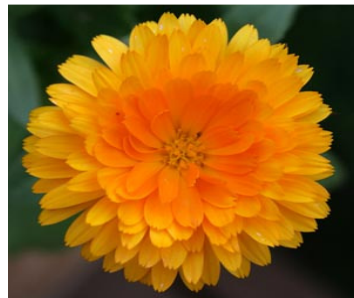


THE STORE THAT PUTS A
SMILE
IN YOUR WORLD
A giggle for your kiddo!
A giggle for your pet!
Many, many
Giggles For You!!!
OPEN NOVEMBER 20TH

The Pansy Alternative

Winter flowerbeds can be fairly dismal. We crave color and green-growing things. Thus, a mass of pansies are often stuck in open spots. We all love this colorful family—pansies, violas, and Johnny Jump-ups. Wonderful colors have been developed in these varieties. They still have their place; however, there are other plants to use.

Calendulas can survive some really cold temperatures, so they make excellent winter bedding plants. Madeline Hill says that a true herb-grower will call them “pot marigolds” as the new foliage is a potheb. The flowers can be used in salads and to give dishes a saffron color. Calendulas do resemble marigolds in shape and color. Bright orange or glowing yellow two-inch flowers will do wonders for a bed.



Winter Pond Preparation

As fall turns into winter and the days become shorter and cooler, you will notice fewer and smaller leaves on your hardy water lilies. Be sure to keep the dead leaves removed, and do not fertilize your plants after October.

As for the tropical lilies, the subtle

Several herbs can be mixed in with winter favorites like snapdragons, dianthus, allysum, and lobelia. Try planting some curly parsley, salad burnett, or cilantro along borders to give islands of bright green. They love the winter weather and can be harvested all winter.

Another cold season plant is the cyclamen. These very bold flowers are available in red, white, and many shades of pink. The butterfly-shaped blossoms stand boldly above the stunning foliage and they should be placed in a really conspicuous place for full enjoyment all winter.



fall weather change will not affect them until freezing temperatures approach. They will continue to flower and grow up to this point until they suddenly go dormant. Cease fertilizing after October to help them go dormant sooner which helps them over-winter. Again, remove dead leaves.

Clean your pond of leaves, sticks and debris that may have settled to the bottom over the summer months. Don't fuss; only remove the large debris you can get with a net or your hand. No need to drain the pond and scrub every rock. However, this is the time to clean the pump filter. Feed fish until the water temp dips to 45-50 degrees.

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Cool Weather Landscaping

C'mon cool weather! This year our tolerance for the hot, humid climate has definitely been pushed to the limit. But with cooler weather approaching, it's time to switch gardening gears. There are a few things we can do to take advantage of the change in seasons.

While in our climate you can plant all year, right now is the best time to be planting or transplanting. This is especially true for larger plants or trees. Even though they are going dormant and not putting on leaves or branches, the roots will continue to grow throughout the winter. Plants "come out" in the spring from the energy stored in the root system during the winter. It gives them a head start on spring and will best prepare them to withstand the heat of the summer. Fall planting for perennials is also ideal. Even though they will go dormant fairly soon after planting, their roots will continue to grow. Once spring rolls around, these flowering plants will bush out bigger and have more blooms than if they had just been planted that spring.

Transplanting or relocating plants in your beds is always stressful to plants because so many roots have to be cut. Doing this in cooler weather when the transpiration rate is lower gives the reduced root system a better chance of keeping the plant supplied with the nutrients it needs. Also, keeping your transplants moist will be a much easier task with the cool weather.

Because our winters are wet as well as cool, there is almost no need for supplemental watering. Turn your irrigation system off and enjoy saving

money on your water bill. If we are unusually dry, run the system manually on an as-needed basis only. If you do have new plants or transplants, watering them by hand will make sure they get enough water without wasting water on other beds or lawn that does not need it.

It is always good to maintain a thick layer of mulch (3" to 4") over all planting beds. It keeps in moisture, smothers weeds, prevents erosion, and provides a constant source of decomposing organic matter. In the winter you can use mulch as insulation. Cover any plants that are borderline hardy for our climate with several extra inches of mulch. In case of severe freezing, covering with blankets is still a good idea, but if you are unable to do that, at least the mulch offers a good measure of protection.



Fertilizing Naturally

Fall is an ideal time for planting many different types of perennials, cool season annuals, bulbs, shrubs, trees and numerous herbs and vegetables. Planting them in organically rich, well-draining soil will establish the roots during winter growth.

A very good all-around fertilizer to use, especially for bulbs, is natural bone meal. Bone meal helps develop sturdy root systems, hastens maturity, and stimulates the plant's growth. When planting your bulbs, apply 1/2 to 2 teaspoons, depending upon bulb size, in the soil approximately 2 inches below the bulb. The N-P-K ratio of most bone meal is 0-10-0.

For lush green growth, many bulb enthusiasts also use blood meal. It is a high nitrogen, natural food used for luxuriant deep-green foliage. Sprinkle lightly on the soil surface around the plant. Work it in and water gently. Be sure to wash off any blood meal that gets on the plant leaves, as blood meal is capable of burning the leaves. It has an N-P-K ratio of approximately 12-0-0.

Bone and blood meals can also be purchased as a mixture for applying a natural supply of nitrogen and phosphate in one application. The combination meal has an N-P-K ratio of approximately 6-7-0.

Bone and blood meals, either by themselves, or in combination, are ideal for roses, pansies, violets, glads, mums, shrubs and vegetables.

And this is our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything. I would not change it. **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

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The Goings-on

What an exciting time at Bloomers! When you pay us a visit you can expect what you've always received: a kind reception from the most helpful staff in the Brazos Valley, a plethora of gorgeous things to look at...animal, vegetable and mineral, and the utterly charming Cafe M. Bloomers Tea Room. But, friends, there is more!

Coming in November is CAT TAILS, the boutique. CAT TAILS will luxuriously lighten your holiday wish list by providing you with everything you need for your discerning someone. Jaunty fedoras and newsboys, fragrance and body treats by Lollia and Lady Primrose, must-have jewelry, and just scads of good stuff are here for you! *I love it! You're gonna love it too!*

And it's that time again! Holiday in the Garden 2009 begins your holiday season with an Open House Thursday, November 19th through Satur-

day, November 21st. The *big event* happens Friday evening! Ultra-yummy things to nibble and sip, a beautiful atmosphere in which to mingle, and gifts galore await you at Holiday in the Garden. We can't wait to see you there!

The fabulous Sabrina Mayfield debuts her darling shop, Giggles For You, inside Martha's Bloomers during the Open House. Giggles is a light-hearted surprise for you, your kiddo, and your pet. Come see!

It's time to plant trees, you know! Come in and let us help you pick the perfect one to compliment your landscape. Our horticulturist David, equally brainy and charming, would

love to advise you on what to plant, where to plant it, and when to plant it. Stop in and get the low-down on fall landscape refreshment.

A final *strong* suggestion is to call Bonnie at the Tea Room 936.870.3277, and reserve a time for High Tea with your loved ones. Such a delightful way to spread some holiday cheer.

See you soon at Martha's Bloomers!



Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

-Hamilton Wright Mabie

Come see us!
8101 Highway 6 Bypass
Navasota, Texas 77868
936.825-7400

Hours:
Monday through Saturday
9 to 6
Sunday
11 to 5

Cafe M. Bloomers
Tuesday through Sunday
11 to 3
dessert until 4

Visit us online
at
www.marthasbloomers.com

Autumn at Cafe M. Bloomers

The Tea Room you know and love is even more yummy during the holidays! Come in and warm up with our Orange Spice Tea, nosh the fall favorites: Derek's Famous Pot Roast and Cornish Game Hen, and finish up with oh-so-good Chocolate Mocha



Martha and Bloomer.

Two warm, fuzzy reasons
to shop the holidays with us!

pudding Cake! If you've never taken the time to [gasp] stop shopping and take in lunch at Cafe M. Bloomers, now is the time!

And that quaint group you belong to...Aggie Moms, Bible Study, or Bunco...bring your group to Cafe M. Bloomers for a truly fun and charming holiday event. Simply call Bonnie at 936.870.3277. She will take care of the rest!

The final lump of sugar is our darling new dining room, yet to be named, though it is! Created especially to accommodate groups, and home to a stunning 60s-era hand-crafted iron gate with copper and brass accents, the new dining room will inspire you!