

Urban Water E-News

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
RESEARCH | EXTENSION
Dallas Center

Plant of the Month

Salvia greggii

(*Salvia greggii*)

This native Texas evergreen shrub, also known as Autumn Sage, is admired in landscapes for its long blooming season, it's hummingbirds and butterfly draw, and adaptability to many different soils.

In its native form the mature leaves are pale green with deep red blooms in spring through fall. There are now a variety of hybrid *Salvia greggii* that offer numerous options of foliage from variegated to bright green foliage and blooms ranging from white and coral, all the way to newer varieties boasting burgundy blooms. Newer varieties also offer different growth patterns for different needs whether you want more vertical growth or more spreading growth.

Pruning on *Salvia greggii* should be done in late fall and early spring for a more full tidy shrub.

Thanks to its adaptability and endless varieties, *Salvia greggii* is a must for your landscape or garden!

by: Patrick Dickinson



In celebration of national "**Fix a Leak Week**", the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Dallas, in partnership with the US EPA Region 6, and the City of Dallas Water Utilities is hosting a public grand opening of the first WaterSense labeled home in the Dallas/Ft Worth region.

On **March 23rd, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm** the newly renovated home will be open for visitors. The home will serve as a working model that demonstrates to visitors just how easy water conservation can be. Both indoors and out, the WaterSense labeled home provides hands-on learning opportunities in areas such as hot water on demand systems, WaterSense labeled fix-

tures, water-efficient landscaping and irrigation systems, rainwater harvesting and rain garden design. The home also includes upgrades utilizing renewable and energy efficient products for the flooring, counter tops, lighting and appliances.

"What makes this home unique is that WaterSense's whole-house label has always focused on new home construction. This will be the first home ever to receive certification as a renovation project", said Clint Wolfe, Program Manager for the Urban Water Program at Texas A&M AgriLife.



Irrigation Essentials

Common Irrigation Issues

Homeowners today are faced with common sprinkler system problems.

- Misaligned Heads (throwing water into street or driveway)
- Heads Not Vertical
- Sunken Heads
- Clogged Nozzle
- Leaking/Broken Head, Valve, Pipe
- High Grass

The good news is many irrigation systems issues can be easily repaired.

Irrigation Check Ups

Irrigation check enables you to diagnose the obvious problems that effect the efficiency of the irrigation system.

New Technologies

- Replacing spray nozzles with multi-stream nozzles can increase efficiency by 30%.

Setting Your controller

Soak and Cycle Method



- Determine how long to run each zone
- Water these areas in 2 or 3 short cycles or 4 cycles if on a slope instead of 1 long cycle
- Wait 20 to 30 minutes between cycles



2013 Upcoming Courses

Vegetable Gardening—Spring
March 14, 2013
10 am—12 pm

Master Gardener Irrigation
Efficiency Training
San Antonio Botanical Garden
March 25–27, 2013
9 am—4 pm Daily

Register at <http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/>

At the Center

How to have a drought-tolerant landscape

Texas A&M AgriLife Research Dallas has partnered with Dallas Water Utilities by hosting one of their Spring Landscape Seminars featuring Landscape Designer and Author Bonnie Reese. Learn how to have a drought tolerant landscape at two FREE seminars on Saturday, March 23.

Water Wise Landscape Design 101. 9:00 am—12:30 pm

- Whether you have a new landscape or plan to update an existing area, it is critical to begin with a good design. This program teaches the principles of landscape design with an emphasis on how to create a beautiful landscape that will save resources—natural and financial!

Fantastic Plants for North Texas. 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

- Using colorful photographs, Bonnie demonstrated the natural beauty of native and adaptive plants that thrive in the North Texas Region. Learn when, where and how to plant each of the recommended plants, their size and height at maturity, seasonal color, texture and more. This program provides information on trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, groundcovers and turf grasses.

Making a reservation

Space is limited, please register online at SaveDallasWater.com or by calling (214) 670-3155.



Resources

EARTHKIND

Encourages:

- Landscape Water conservation
- Reduction of fertilizer and pesticide use
- Landscaping for energy conservation
- Reduction of landscape wastes entering landfills

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/>

https://agriflifebookstore.org/publications_browse.cfm

Who We Are

The Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas is a gateway to science, researchers and Extension educators across the U.S. The Center serves all of urban Texas, and the Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth metropolitan area in particular.

We're on the web!!

<http://dallas.tamu.edu/>

Landscape Essentials

Perennials

Perennials are plants that return year after year. Majority of perennials die back to the ground in the winter and return in the spring.

Each Perennial plant has its own time where it thrives and blooms followed by dormancy which is typically when perennials are most unattractive.

Perennials are dependable additions to your landscape as they continue to bring beauty for years to come. There is an infinite variety to choose from which makes it possible to incorporate perennials into most landscapes.

Maintenance of Perennials

Maintenance of perennials during their dormant season is important to not only the health of the plant but also the aesthetics of the landscape which they reside.

- Most perennials should be pruned down in early spring in preparation of new spring growth.
- Controlled pruning of certain perennials also encourages new lush growth and a more tidy appearance.
- Proper selection of perennials and grouping ensures like water needs.

Native/Adaptive Texas Perennials

- Salvia Greggii
- Blackfoot Daisy
- Turks Cap
- Flam Acanthus
- Cone Flower
- Lambs Ear
- Zexmenia
- Rock Rose
- Hamelin Grass
- Gaura
- Senna