

Plant of the Month

Texas Lantana

(*Lantana horrida*)

Texas Lantana or Orange Lantana, has naturalized over much of Texas. The showy clusters of small yellow-orange flowers appear from spring until frost. This perennial plant flowers all summer in the hottest, driest place in the landscape and attracts many different types of butterflies seeking nectar, especially Monarch butterflies. Plant in a hot sunny area with good drainage. Water the new plants for several weeks keeping mulch under the plant to conserve soil moisture. Once established, they require very little water. Frequent tip pruning during the growing season promotes more flowers. Prune as needed to keep the plant in bounds. Fertilize sparingly, with one light application each spring. After the first freeze, cut the plant back so new growth will return in late spring. Texas Lantana or Orange Lantana is effective in mass plantings and as a ground cover in sunny areas.

By: Dotty Woodson



You can still keep your lawn in good condition even when water use is restricted.

To sustain a healthy lawn during times of drought and water restrictions, water deeply and less frequently to encourage deep root growth. You can easily achieve this by applying 1 inch of water per week to your lawn, which will soak the soil down to approximately 6 inches. This practice trains your lawn to grow a deeper root system, thus making it more drought tolerant and cold hardy.

After you have adequately wet the soil, do not water again until the grass shows signs of drought stress.

Symptoms of Drought Stress

- Grass leaves turning a dull, bluish color
- Leaf blades rolling or folding
- Footprints remain in the grass after you walk across the lawn.

These symptoms may appear late in the day during a hot summer evening when the soil is moist. Use the probe method to check for soil moisture. If the soil is dry, irrigation is justified.

Soil Probing Method

- Use a garden spade, soil probe or screwdriver to determine how deeply the soil is wet.
- Push the probe into the soil. The probe will push easily through wet soil but less easily when it reaches dry soil. Measure the depth of the wet soil.

Check out the “What’s New” section on our website for additional information on drought proofing your landscape.

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

Irrigation Essentials

Irrigation Best Management Practices

- Water only when required.
- Only judge water requirements in the morning.
- Water deeply and infrequently to promote deep roots and healthy turf. An inch of water will generally penetrate the soil to a depth of six inches.
- Water slowly for better absorption. Use drip or soaker hoses wherever possible.
- Never water on windy or rainy days.
- Water early in the morning to reduce wasteful evaporation.
- Mulch flower, ground-cover, garden and shrub areas two to three times a year.
- Water newly planted



flowers, shrubs and trees individually.

- Water without creating runoff.
- Audit irrigation system 1 or 2 times a year.
- Use Cycle and Soak method of irrigating.



2013 Upcoming Courses

**107 Saving from a Rainy Day
Making a Rain Barrel**

June 25, 2013

6 - 8 pm

**ARCSA Level 200 Rainwater Harvesting
Workshop**

June 24-25, 2013

9 am - 5 pm daily

**ARCSA Level 300 Rainwater Harvesting
Design and Construction Workshop**

June 26-27, 2013

9 am - 5 pm daily

ARCSA Certified Inspector Training

June 28, 2013

9 am - 5 pm daily

105 Sprinkler System Basics

July 9, 2013

12 am - 5 pm & 6pm—8 pm

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

News to Know

Protect Your Family by DOOing the Right Thing!

Pet waste is not only smelly and unsightly, but is also a health risk to pets and people, especially children. Pets, children who play outside, and adults who garden are most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste. So, "DOO the Right Thing" and pick up your dog's waste while on a walk and around the yard on a regular basis, then flush, toss (in a trash can), or bury the waste. Learn more by visiting www.dfwstormwater.com/petwaste.

Pet waste is also a water quality issue. If left on the ground, the waste may be washed by rain into storm drains, where the water runs directly into creeks, streams, rivers and lakes without being treated or cleaned. Pet waste contains bacteria and nutrients that can make our lakes unsuitable for activities like swimming and fishing.

While pet waste might not be the largest or most toxic pollutant, it is one of the many little sources of pollution that add up to a big problem. There are an estimated 1.5 million dogs in the North Central Texas area.

If the average dog produces $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds of waste a day, almost 1,125,000 pounds of waste are being produced each day in North Texas! That's a lot of doo.

Protect your family and our water resources by taking the online pledge to "DOO the Right Thing". Owners who pledge to pick up after their dog will have an opportunity to enter their dog in the online 2013 Top Dog Photo Contest. For more information, visit www.dfwstormwater.com/petwaste.

Three Options for Dealing with Dog Waste:

- Flush it. Pick up the waste with a pooper scooper or slip a plastic bag over your hand.
- Toss it (in a trash can). Collect the waste in a plastic bag, tie the end securely, and toss the bag in a trash can.
- Bury it. Scoop the waste and bury it at least six inches in the ground and away from gardens and water sources.

Be a good neighbor, pick up after your dog and dispose of the waste properly.

Resources

Texas ET Network

Contains:

- Weather information
- Current and average evapotranspiration data
- Irrigation watering recommendations.

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

[Keeping your Lawn Alive During Drought](#)

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

"Rating for Drought Tolerance of Turf grasses Used in Home Lawns"

Buffalo grass, Bermuda grass and some of the zoysia varieties will probably survive without irrigation. These grasses will go dormant until the drought ends, at which time they should green up again.

Grass varieties such as St. Augustine grass, centipede grass, tall fescue, and some other species may be severely damaged or die during extended periods of drought. You may have to replant dead areas after the drought ends.

Grass Species Tolerance Level

Buffalo Grass	High
Bermuda grass	Medium-High
Zoysia grass	Low-High
St. Augustine grass	Medium
Centipede grass	Medium
Tall Fescue	Low-High

Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of your particular grass

If the grass in your lawn goes dormant during drought or watering restrictions,

you could stop watering altogether. However, if your grass does not go dormant and must go without water suddenly due to drought or restrictions for a long time, much of your lawn may die and need to be replaced. Water only high priority areas and allow other areas to go dormant or die. If you use the backyard more than the front, it would be the high priority area. If a beautiful landscape is important to you, then the front yard might be the priority. This approach will allow you to maintain a green lawn in important areas of the yard and still save water.

For more information, see the resources section of this newsletter.

