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President's Corner - Member Profile



My name is Judy Anderson. I moved to Southlake from Chicago in June, 2002 to get married. My husband, Lewis, and I got married in our backyard in November, 2003, with no changes to the landscaping other than an arbor (since torn down) that we built specifically for the wedding. Our wedding song was the theme to "The Brady Bunch", truly. I have two daughters, ages 25 and 20, and a 22 year old son. He has two sons, 28 and 30, and a 25 year old daughter. I am a territory manager for Starbucks. I also have two rescued dogs whom I love dearly; unfortunately, one of them loves to dig in my gardens and yard. I haven't been able to break her of this as of yet so if you have any suggestions, please send them my way.

My father was a man who loved to garden and landscape. He especially loved roses, a passion he passed on to his four children. Living in Texas has made that a bit more difficult but I am learning. Gardening is not only a passion for me but it is my therapy as well. My husband says

that I need to feel the dirt as well as almost taste it. I try to build a new garden every year. I am slowly transforming my yard into the sanctuary I envision.

I had a huge learning curve when I moved to Texas. My gardens are always a work in process. The drought has taken its toll and I have lost 9 large pine trees in the last three years. In their place I am now seeing some beautiful oaks growing as well as some trees I have planted.

I love to travel and always try visiting gardens wherever I go. Every place I have traveled has its own natural beauty. I am inspired every day by the awesomeness of my surroundings and try and use that inspiration in the planning of my gardens, not always with success.

I am so happy that I found PGS. I have made some wonderful friends, learned more than I really imagined I would and have even more of an excitement about gardening than I had before. I look forward to our monthly meetings and see myself being enriched by each of you for a long time to come.



From the dirt up - Pruning



Mid-February is the time to do all major pruning of shrubs, perennials, and ornamental grasses. In the case of shrubs, try not to just shear them, but instead selectively prune at intersecting branches toward the interior of the shrub to keep shrubs full and compact. If you only shear the tops of the shrubs, that is where the new growth will come, leaving the interior and lower branches bare.

Late winter (January/February) is also a good time to prune trees, if needed. Just a note about oak trees (live oak or red oak), trim them very soon, if needed. To prevent the spread of oak wilt disease, the best time to prune oaks is in the winter months, preferably before February 15. The nitidulid beetle is not as active during colder months.

Here are some tips on pruning specific types of shrubs and perennials presented by Toni Moore-



Pruning Tips

head, our February speaker:

Spring-blooming shrubs: (Indian Hawthorn, Viburnum, Forsythia, Flowering Quince, Loropetalum) Prune AFTER they finish blooming (probably about April). If you prune in February, you will cut off all the blooms.

Hydrangeas: DO NOT PRUNE now. Hydrangeas bloom on old growth (last year's growth), so pruning them now will sacrifice blooms. If you need to prune them, do so right after they finish blooming. Selectively prune by cutting the tallest stems close to the ground.

Ornamental Grasses: Cut Miscanthus and Fountain grasses down to about 3 to 6 inches. It is not necessary to cut Mexican Feathergrass; just give it a "haircut" and rake out the old grass stems. Cut Muhly grasses down to about a foot tall and rake out old stems.

Crape Myrtles: NEVER, NEVER, NEVER prune the tops of crape myrtles – PLEASE don't commit "Crape Murder." Prune only dead or crossing branches and any suckers that have grown at the bottom. If your tree did not leaf out well last year because of LAST winter's freeze damage, cut the tree TO THE GROUND and let it regrow. It will quickly send up new shoots, and at that point you can pick the strongest stems to become the new tree.

Perennials:

The following are just a few specifics.)

Salvia Greggii – cut down to about 12 inches. It will stay more compact/full.

Shrubby Pink Skullcap, Blackfoot Daisy, Calylophus – just give it a haircut, taking off only a couple inches to make it look neater.

Purple Coneflower, Black-Eyed Susans, Fall Aster, Mealycup Sage, Mexican Mint Marigold, Russian Sage, Hardy Hibiscus, Mexican Bush Sage, Summer Phlox, Turk's Cap, Loosestrife, Zexmenia, Catmint – cut to the ground.

Lantana – Cut back to about 3 to 6 inches. It is slow to come out in the spring, so don't give up on it.

Creeping Phlox, Dianthus - no pruning necessary

Four-Nerve Daisy - no pruning necessary; just cut away old blooms.

Liriope (variegated or green "monkey grass") – cut back to about 1-2 inches.

Butterfly Bush (Buddleia) and American Beautyberry - Cut back to about 12 to 18 inches.

'Powis Castle' Artemisia – cut back to about 6 inches.

'Katie's' Ruellia (Dwarf Mexican Petunia) – cut to ground

Ferns – Wood Ferns and Japanese Painted Ferns - cut to the ground

Evergreen Holly Ferns and Autumn Ferns – cut only browned foliage

Cast Iron Plant – cut tattered or browned leaves to the ground. It is slow to grow back; be patient.

Ligularia (Leopard Plant), Lamb's Ear - cut away any browned leaves.

Columbine - only cut away dry, browned foliage. It should be sending up new growth right now; be careful not to cut new foliage.



Next meeting February 10 -

Liberty Garden

400 N. White Chapel

(Behind Tom Thumb)

Coffee & Refreshments at 9:30

Meeting at 10:00

February PGS Meeting

Our meeting for February is all about pruning and will be lead by Toni Moorehead, Master Gardener. Toni will help us understand when and how to prune. We'll meet at The Lodge for coffee and snacks at 9:30 and then at 10:00 we'll walk over to Liberty Garden and Toni guide us as we

get some good hands-on experience with the plants there. Please dress for the weather and BRING YOUR CLIPPERS! Be sure to clean and sterilize them before coming to the meeting.



The Perennial Garden Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating its members on gardening topics specific to the North Texas area. The primary focus of the group is native and adapted drought tolerant perennials and grasses. Our purpose is to promote, encourage and share ideas with other gardeners regarding the implementation of native and adapted perennial in the suburban Texas landscape.