

Our Reputation
is Growing



SMITH'S
GARDENTOWN FARMS

and

Wild Birds Unlimited[®]
Nature Shop



4940 Seymour Hwy. • Wichita Falls, TX

October 2011 Newsletter

TIME TO PLANT (OR REPLANT)

No doubt about it – this summer was brutally hard on our landscapes. The prolonged heat and drought (the worst ever recorded, in fact) killed even many well-established trees and shrubs.

If you need to replace some plants, right now is definitely the best time to do it. Planting in the fall allows trees and shrubs some time to get their roots established before the heat of the next summer. We are receiving new shipments of trees and shrubs every week, so come in soon and let us help you choose the right plants for your landscape.



SOME WORDS ABOUT WATERING

There is a good chance that, by the time you read this, the City of Wichita Falls will be under Stage 2 watering restrictions. Don't panic. You can still maintain your landscape with the wise use of water. Deep watering once or twice a week through the cooler months will be adequate.

We know that some folks lost valuable trees this summer because they did not water properly – that is, slowly, deeply, less frequently. Watering trees, shrubs and lawn areas every day is damaging to your landscape, even during drought conditions. This photo is an example of a very healthy yard that did quite well this summer, even though the sprinkler system was only set to run every 4th day. But flower beds and trees were deep watered with soaker hoses.

Here are some guidelines for using water wisely in your yard:

1. Water only when plants need water – check the soil to see if it is dry or moist before starting the sprinklers.
2. Water more deeply and less frequently. A good, slow soaking once every two weeks will do more good than a light sprinkle every day.
3. Think about planting less grass and more groundcovers. Lawn grass is the big water user, and trying to keep a large, lush lawn in times of drought can really get that water meter running.
4. Mulch, mulch, mulch around trees, shrubs and flowers. Bark mulch will keep the soil cooler and slow down moisture loss. In the winter, mulch protects plant roots from cold weather. (Don't use rubber or rocks as a mulch – they will heat up the soil instead of keeping it cool).
5. Drip irrigation and soaker hoses are the most efficient way to water flowers, trees and shrubs.

TO DO THIS MONTH:

- *Plant perennials, trees and shrubs
- *Mulch beds to protect tender plants from winter damage
- *Plant pansies, ornamental cabbage and kale

- *Plant rye or fescue grass seed
- *Plant wildflower seed
- *Select fall bulbs for later planting

TIME FOR FALL BULBS

If you want those beautiful tulips and daffodils in the spring, you've got to start planning for them now. Remember that tulips and hyacinths must be refrigerated for at least six weeks before planting, so buy them now and refrigerate so you can plant them between Thanksgiving and the end of January.



GARDENING AT THE STATE FAIR

While planning your trip to the State Fair in Dallas this month, be sure to include some time to hear some of the speakers in the Southern Living Speaker Series. There are great topics and speakers every weekend of the fair at the Greenhouse on the Midway (next to the Texas Star). For a complete schedule of speakers, go to www.bigtex.com/sft/Nav/SpeakerSeries.asp ..



PANSIES

It's time to plant pansies, viola, cabbage and kale for fall, winter and early spring color. We have a great selection of the Majestic Giant pansies (with the dark face) and Crown series (solid colors), plus dianthus, snapdragons and more.

Remember to prepare your beds with lots of rich organic compost. We recommend the Soil Mender Plus. And feed pansies often for the best results. Plant as soon as possible so your pansies will be rooted in before the very cold weather hits. They'll perform better this winter and spring if you set them out now.

Landscaping (and Gardening) for the "New Normal" 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 22

Weather extremes have always been common in Texoma. Now we're told that extremes may be the "New Normal".

After struggling through the summer of 2011 and with water restrictions in sight, we know we must make some changes.

Perhaps you lost landscape plants and now wonder

when to replace them and what plants to replace them with.

We can still have beautiful yards. but there are many things, large and small, we can do to have beautiful yards with less water.

This will be a practical look at plant selections,

Sign up at www.smithsgardentown.com

planting practices, cultivation and irrigation. You'll learn techniques you can use in your own yard to save money and precious resources.

The seminar is free, but please let us know if you are attending so we can have enough chairs ready!

MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR FRESH HERBS.

We just received a few herbs. You can plant them in pots and keep them indoors this winter for cooking and to add fragrance to your home.





PUMPKIN PATCH PHOTO CONTEST

Taking photos in our Pumpkin Patch has become a big deal during the last few years. This year we've decided to make it even bigger with a **PHOTO CONTEST!** Submit the photos of your young trick-or-treaters (through age 11) at www.smithsgardentown.com. We'll have online voting, and the winners will receive *prizes from Smith's Gardentown and Storkland!*

Come out soon. Because of the drought, pumpkins are in short supply.



CHRISTMAS SHOP IS OPEN!

Yes, we know it's not Thanksgiving yet, but you need to be looking at our unusual and beautiful Christmas decorations while the selection is good. We have several different themes, so there's something for everyone!

And be sure to see the Instant artificial Christmas trees. They're called Instant because they hold their shape even after being stored in their boxes. They are already lit with LED lights (the ones that use less electricity and last longer than conventional lights). You'll be amazed at how fast and easy they are to assemble!

And so good looking!



Come meet the newest member of the miniature horse herd.

She has surprised us all with her arrival, made the paper and drawn people to visit our miniature horses' pasture. She is definitely cute enough to catch everyone's attention. Our new filly has also brought us greater awareness as we pull into the store....there are far more sudden stops as people get excited as they notice the tiny little horse. Come out and meet our new filly.



Wild Birds Unlimited[®] Nature Shop



Birds need your help more than ever. Natural food sources for wild birds are pretty scarce right now. Come see our experts at the Wild Birds Unlimited shop for the best bird food and bird feeders. This is a great family hobby, too!

For a limited time only, get the

Fundamentals Medium Seed Tube Feeder and 2lbs. of seed for only \$10!

Offer good while supplies last. See store for details.



WEBSITE

Remember to check our website for gardening tips and information, special events and unusual plants and accessories.

Go to www.smithsgardentown.com to sign up for our e-newsletter and a chance to win a \$25 gift card from Smith's.



Or use your smart phone to sign up now.....