



GARDENING BY GEORGE

Blaze and I certainly aren't known to brag, but we are pretty proud of our Garden center. Did you see the picture and article in last months Observer (in case you missed it, you can find it on the KWGC web site)? The Kingwood Garden Club presented us with the Community Enhancement Award for the new landscape in the front. We humbly passed the honor of receiving the award on to Bob, Nancy, Toni and Yvonne and although we were asked to be in the picture, we graciously declined.

We noticed a little bounce in Bob's walk the other day when he received the news from web page designer, Veronica Fisher, that 'we're going live on September 5th'. Check out KingwoodGardenCenter.com and tell us what you think.

We also heard Alan from Tejas Organics say that Kingwood Garden Center is becoming a leader in carrying the latest Organic Products for the lawn and garden. Tejas Organics has a sumptuous line of soaps, bath salts and hand creams that are a real treat after a day of gardening.

And speaking of that...the days are perfect for going outside and starting your Fall planting. Toni is getting an assortment of bulbs to plant now for Spring blooms. Ask her about them when you stop by.

Everyday Blaze and I sit by the door and watch the UPS truck bring more fall gifts into the store.... Nancy found wonderful baskets while visiting the Amish Country in Ohio. She hand selected some very unique styles and designs. Other garden gifts are available and if you're a football fan, support your favorite college team with a logo Garden Gnome.

All in all we are purrrty content cats these days. Even though the kids are back in school lots of them still stop by to give us attention. Hope we see you soon.

FALL IS FOR PLANTING

Fall is the very best time for planting new trees, shrubs, and fall color plants. Typically you will find the soil to be most accommodating to you and your plants. The soil will be warm and moist making it easier to "work over". Cool weather and warm soil encourage root development. Plants will have two seasons of cool weather and rain before the heat of summer arrives. Fall is certainly a more pleasant time of the year to spend in the garden.

Deciduous plants in particular benefit by being planted while dormant. They suffer less transplant shock. Container grown plants can be planted any time of the year but this is the best time

LANDSCAPES DO NOT HAVE TO BE BORING

Put some excitement into your landscape. KWGC's beautiful new display garden designed and planted by Herrs Landscape features alternatives that can work for you. Heat loving natives and perennials in combination with herbs and small flowering trees will not only please the eye but will provide nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies.

Our entrance beds feature native plants such as Mexican Hat and Texas Mountain Laurel, along with edible chilies and ornamental grasses. Other feature beds contain fall blooming perennials; Mexican Bush Sage, Lions Ear and Autumn Aster to name a few.

The new display garden is for all to enjoy and appreciate as well as to showcase plants that can be used in your garden. And as our garden grows, we appreciate your patronage and are committed to provide and promote an expanded selection of plants from local growers.



NOW IS THE TIME TO – SEASONAL CALENDAR

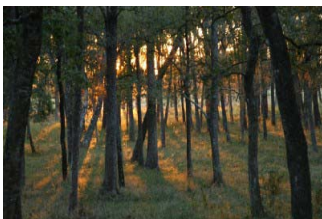
SEPTEMBER



- ✚ Divide and plant spring and summer blooming perennials such as daylilies, irises, phlox and Shasta daisies.
- ✚ Sow seed for sweet peas, snapdragons, alyssum, stock and calendulas.
- ✚ Continue to make sure that your azaleas do not dry out. They are setting buds for next spring's bloom. If the plants are yellowing and showing signs of chlorosis, treat with "Ironite." Do not fertilize.
- ✚ Plant new mums.
- ✚ Plant vegetable seed and starter plants according to planting schedule in last month's newsletter. Plant herb such as chives, dill, oregano, sweet marjoram, cilantro, flat and curly parsley, thyme, basil (good until frost) and mints.
- ✚ Prevent brown patch on lawn by applying *ferti-lome F-Stop* granules or cornmeal for an organic solution to lawn fungus problems.
- ✚ Refrigerate hyacinth bulbs in the last week of September for

"The first step in getting to know a plant intimately is to dig it up and study its root system, see how it eats and drinks see how it forages for food. Know your root and garden wisdom will be added unto you." Richard Wright 1933

OCTOBER



- ✚ Watch for brown patch in your lawn. Brown patch is characterized by circular brown areas. The fungus is triggered by cool nights and warm days. To cure, treat with *Nitro-Phos Terrachlor* or cornmeal for an organic solution to lawn fungus problems.
- ✚ Apply *Easy Gro Winterizer* fertilizer to aid root development and help prevent winter kill.
- ✚ Check the undersides of camellias for tea scale and spray with Dormant Oil or Neem if required.
- ✚ Check soil ph of azaleas. If the ph is above 5.5 or the leaves are yellowing or showing signs of chlorosis, side dress with Ironite or spray foliage with *fertilome Liquid Iron*.
- ✚ Plant spring flowering bulbs.
- ✚ Plant trees and shrubs now and in November. This is one of the best times of the year to plant as the soil is cool and plants have fall and winter to establish their roots and be ready to take off in the spring.
- ✚ Divide and replant herbs such as garlic, multiplying onions and chives.
- ✚ Plant bluebonnets and wildflower seed now for spring flowers.
- ✚ Dig and store caladiums now or in November before the foliage dies. Dust with sulphur to control fungus.
- ✚ Do not plant pansies too early. Even though they may be available, wait until late October or November. They like cool weather.

LAWN FUNGUS

This year, as in the past we have seen a lot of confusion over various types of lawn fungi and determining whether or not it is a fungus or chinch bugs. We have seen a lot of chinch bug damage which is often mistaken for fungus and sometimes both a fungus and chinch bugs are in the same sample of grass. Below we will describe the three most common types of lawn fungus and offer suggestions for treating them.

BROWN PATCH

Brownpatch is a disease caused by the fungi *rhizoctonia solani*. On our warm season grasses, Bermuda grass and St. Augustine, the disease occurs in spring and fall when the grass is emerging or going into dormancy. It develops most rapidly in wet conditions when the daytime temperatures are between 75 and 85 degrees F and evening temperatures are below 68 degrees F. The disease subsides when air temperatures are above 90 or below freezing.

The most common symptom of brown patch is a small circular area which will rapidly expand and grow together to form irregular patches of brown blighted grass. There is often a yellowish ring of wilted grass at the perimeter of the affected area. Leaves and leaf sheaths of the individual plants become water soaked, then wilt and turn brown.

Brown patch comes back to the same area year after year. The fungus winters over in the form of resting bodies, either within infected grass tissue or in the soil

The disease can be minimized by avoiding heavy application of nitrogen during spring and fall. Fungicides are most effective when used on a preventative basis. It is more difficult to control the fungus if it becomes well established.

The fungicides we recommend as granules are:

- ✓ **Cure**, PCNB (terrachlor)
- ✓ **Preventative** or cure. Ferti lome F-Stop.

The liquid fungicides are *Fertilome/Liquid Systemic Fungicide*, *Immunex* and *Bayleton*.

“TAKE-ALL PATCH

This fungus is characterized by either circular or irregular dead areas of grass. The fungus is most active in fall and winter when the temperature is moderate but there is a lot of moisture in the air. The symptoms may not show up until late spring or early summer when the grass is stressed by high temperatures and dry weather. It can resemble brown patch but can be distinguished by damage to roots and stolons (stems creeping above ground) not found in brown patch. The grass begins to thin as roots, nodes, and stolons become infected and the plant begins to decline.

Controlling this fungus is not easy and both chemical and cultural methods should be used. Aerification will help get rid of the soil compaction and encourage a deeper and more vigorous root system so it important to water only when required. Frequent shallow watering is not advisable.

Adjust ph to a range of 6.0 to 6.5 and apply fungicide in the fall when the fungus is most active. The fungicides we recommend are *Nitro-phos Bayleton*, *Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide* and *Fertilome F-Stop*.

GRAY LEAF SPOT

We have seen a lot of gray leaf spot on the samples of grass brought in to us. Gray Leaf is activated by abundant moisture and warm temperatures. It will usually strike between April and November and favors shaded area, although it can also be present in a sunny area. It starts as olive green to brown colored spots as small as a pinhead and expands quickly to form a circular or elongated lesions of brown to ash with purple margins. As the disease progresses there is a serious thinning of the turf. If left untreated the grass may be lost.

Do not use quick release fertilizer to control gray leaf spot. Water only in the early morning and limit herbicides which may weaken Saint Augustine grass in the shady areas of the lawn.

Recommended fungicides to treat Gray leaf are *ferti lome Liquid Systemic Fungicide* or *Fertilome F-Stop*. As with all fungus problems it is helpful to rotate with two or more fungicides. Repeated use of the same fungicide can cause some resistance problems.

KINGWOOD GARDEN
CENTER
1216 STONEHOLLOW
DRIVE
KINGWOOD, TX 77339

Phone:
281-358-1805
Fax:
281-358-1805

Contact us at:
kingwoodgardencenter.com

ZUCCHINI-TOMATO BAKE*

1 onion, chopped	celery salt
¼ cup butter	2 large tomatoes, peeled & chopped
4 unpeeled zucchini, finely sliced	parmesan cheese
salt & pepper	

Brown onion in butter. Add zucchini and cook only until soft, adding more butter if needed. Season with salt, pepper and celery salt. Add tomatoes and bring to a boil. Sprinkle generously with parmesan cheese. Bake in 350 degree oven for one hour. Serves 4.

* Houston Junior League Cookbook-available in the book section at KWGC

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1216 STONEHOLLOW DRIVE
KINGWOOD, TX 77339

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