



ECHO

Extension's Community Horticultural Outreach

November–December 2004

Hello Friends,

What a great time of year. Cool temperatures, our water tables and aquifers recharging - it's wonderful. Growing up in West Texas leads me to be hesitant about complaining about the rain. I say let's take it while we can get it. I'm enjoying these beautiful fall colors all around, and I am certainly thankful to get to work with such fun, talented people like you.



This year's Urban Plant Detective program was concluded in November. To jog your memory – we were researching various treatments for powdery mildew on Crape Myrtles at 5 sites in Collin County. Diane Sharp did a great job heading up this project, and the only problem was that the Collin County Master Gardeners were too good in the horticulture arena. Powdery mildew was scared to step foot on our testing sites, so our results were inconclusive. It was determined that we will try this project again next spring, as the plants are already in the ground and ready to go. This is a fun and useful way for Master Gardeners to get involved first-hand with an Extension research project. You will be hearing more about this next spring from Don Tillerson, who will be heading up the project at that time.

Educational programs of Texas Cooperative Extension are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

Next time you're in the office, be sure to check out the latest additions to the Master Gardener photo album. Beverly Vickers continues to do a great job of documenting all of the wonderful adventures that we have. The pictures of this fall's trip to Bamberger Ranch will make you smile.

Thanks for all that you do!

Landry Lockett, CEA-Horticulture, Texas Cooperative Extension

Cookbook Update

Thanks to all of you who have purchased Cookbooks! To date we've sold 115, which will make our first payment. For those of you who are waiting to see the finished product, you won't be disappointed!



The books have been delivered and will be available for pick up or purchase at the December 2, Graduation and Awards Dinner. If you have purchased a book, but will not be attending the event contact Diane Sharp at 972 382-3949 to arrange to pick up your cookbooks.

Getting to Know... Susan Owens, the CCMGA 2005 President

Where did you grow up? A little about your family then and now.

I grew up in Denison Texas. I am the oldest of 4 children and the only girl. I never missed having a sister as they all treated me like a queen. I have been married to Jim Owens for 21 years. We have lived in the same house in Celina for 19 years and we have a very special family of 5 children, 2 sons in laws, an almost daughter in law, 3 grand children and one more on the way. When I married Jim he had custody of his 3 daughters from a previous marriage and I had 2 boys from a previous marriage. All five lived together and there are truly so many miracles in this beautifully blended family that it is an article in itself. This past May our youngest son received his bachelor's degree and in December of this year our oldest son will receive his master's degree from Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary. All three of our daughter's have their bachelor degrees and our youngest daughter has her master's and is coaching women's basketball at Kentucky Wesleyan University.

In July of this year we traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to be interviewed by Focus on The Family radio program. They interviewed us about blending a family or step parenting. This was a very humbling experience.

What is your educational and professional background?

I received a BS degree in mathematics and a minor in biology from Texas Women's University. I taught math for several years and then worked for my husband in our insurance agency for 15 years.

In April of 2003 I retired from the insurance agency and started a grower business, SLO Grown Farms and Garden. I am actively growing many varieties of crape myrtles and trying a few varieties of Earthkind Roses.

In August 2004 I was appointed the Executive Director of The Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney. This has been an enjoyable challenge to be working with the City of

McKinney and the private sector on an endeavor that will make McKinney like Tyler is for roses and azaleas.

Where did you get your interest in gardening?

My interest in gardening originally came from Jim's father, Ray Owens. He was very influential in sparking curiosity in me. When the last of my 5 children left for college I enrolled in the Master Gardener program.

Where do you spend vacations?

Three to four times a year we travel to Elizabethtown, Kentucky, to visit our 3 grandchildren. Truly a joy in my life!

What would be your ideal vacation?

My ideal vacation is in Maui. We own a time share in Maui and absolutely love going there. In 2005 we have given the condo to our youngest son. He is getting married in May and he will be taking his lovely bride to our place. But truly, the most ideal vacation would be to go skiing at Vail and then leave there and fly straight to Maui. I love to ski but get so cold and I could think of nothing more enjoyable than being cold for 3 or 4 days and then spending 3 or 4 days on a beach.

If you could have the garden of your dreams, what would it look like and what would you grow? Where would it be?

It is the San Antonio location of The Antique Rose Emporium. They have fabulous demonstration gardens full of native and adapted plants and of course, antique roses peppered in between. I would love to someday turn my five acres into something much like that.

What advice do you have for our new interns as they become acquainted with Extension and helping the public?

The advice I would give our new interns would be to honor the position you have earned. You have gained some valuable information and you will find that sharing the knowledge with the public will be a rewarding experience. But always remember we continue to learn and if you do not know something do not be afraid to say, "I don't know, but I will find out". Humility is a beautiful trait!

Note from the President–Susan Owens

I am very excited about the up coming year. CCMGA now has an advisory board in addition to the executive board. The executive board will continue meeting on a monthly basis. The new advisory board will be meeting on a quarterly basis. The executive board consists of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

(Continued on page 3)

Garden Checklist for November-December

by Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist,
Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A&M University (from November/December 2003)

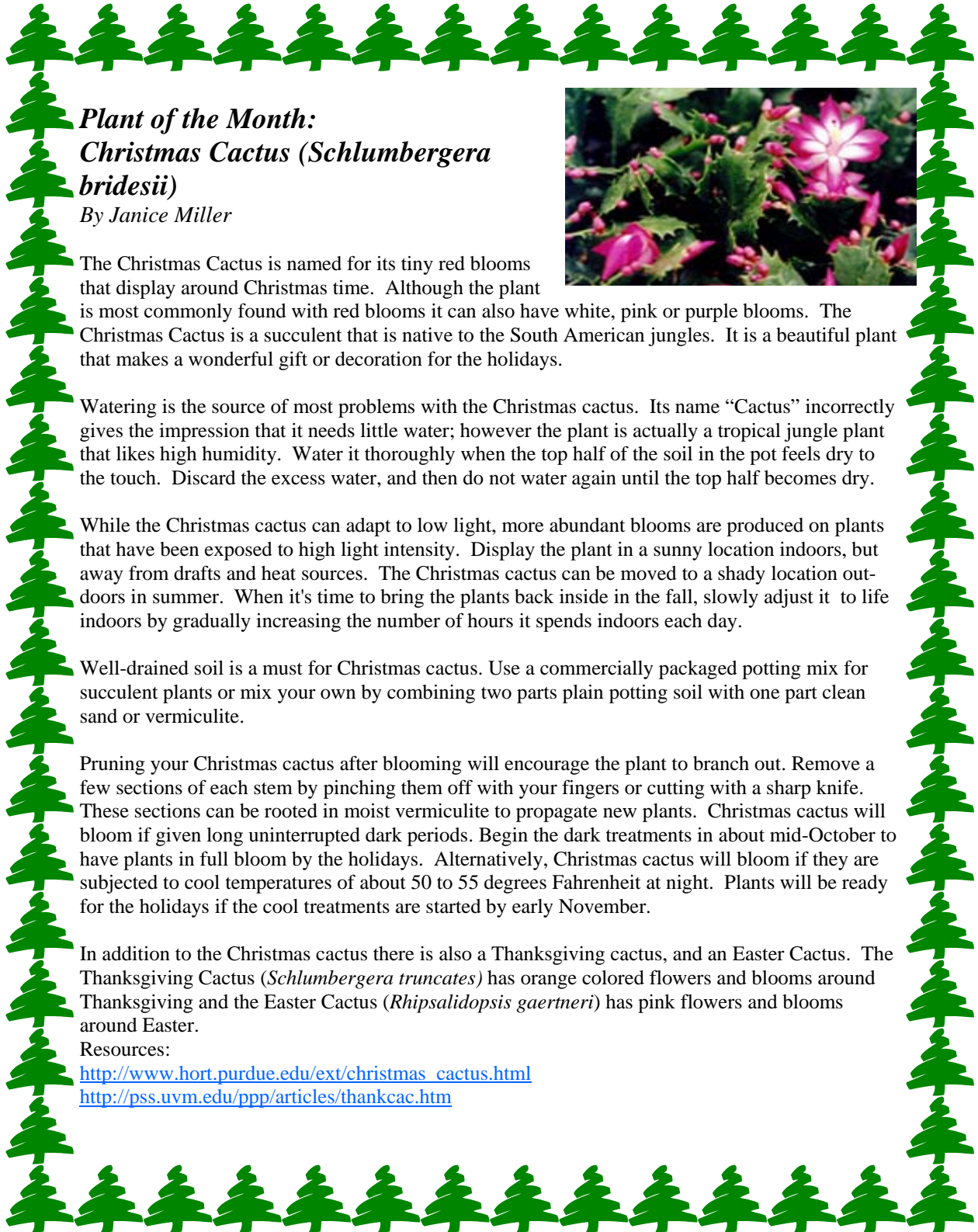
- Gourds on display for fall decorations will last longer if they are carefully cleaned, waxed and kept in a dry place. Inspect occasionally for signs of mould.
- Prolong the life of holiday-season gift plants by providing proper care. Check to see if the pot wrap has plugged up the bottom drainage. Don't over-water. Keep out of drafts from heating vents and open doorways. Fertilizer is seldom needed the first few months.
- Berrying plants, such as holly and yaupon, may be pruned now while they can be enjoyed as cut material inside the house.
- Place orders for seeds this month so you will have them available when you are ready to plant. By ordering early, you will be more certain of getting the varieties you want.
- Don't get in a hurry to prune woody plants. Late December through February is usually the best time to prune them.
- Drain gasoline from power tools and run the engine until fuel in the carburetor is used up.
- Drain and store garden hoses and watering equipment in a readily accessible location. The lawn and plants may need water during a prolonged dry spell.
- November through February is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. In the Panhandle, planting is often delayed until February or early March.
- Continue to set out cool-season bedding plants, such as pansies, violas, stock, snapdragons, and dianthus.
- Prepare beds and individual holes for rose planting in January and February. Use composted manure, pine bark, and similar materials mixed with existing soil.
- Plant those spring-flowering bulbs if you haven't already done so.
- Want to start cuttings of your favorite Christmas cactus? As soon as it has finished blooming, select a cutting with 4 or 5 joints, break or cut it off, and insert the basal end into a pot of moderately moist soil. Place it on a windowsill or other brightly lit area. The cuttings should be rooted within 3 to 4 weeks.

(Continued from page 2)

But on the new advisory board we now have 19 members; 5 from the executive board and 14 various project/committee chairs.

January 6, 2005, will be the first advisory board meeting and retreat. Our goal is to organize and plan out our 2005 calendar of events. Over the next few weeks, the project/committee chairs will be reviewing their projects and producing an annual report for their project.

Our organization has grown to a level that it is necessary to have a larger number of people in the board capacity. We are in hopes this will mainstream and further open our levels of communication.



Plant of the Month:

**Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera
bridesii*)**

By Janice Miller



The Christmas Cactus is named for its tiny red blooms that display around Christmas time. Although the plant is most commonly found with red blooms it can also have white, pink or purple blooms. The Christmas Cactus is a succulent that is native to the South American jungles. It is a beautiful plant that makes a wonderful gift or decoration for the holidays.

Watering is the source of most problems with the Christmas cactus. Its name “Cactus” incorrectly gives the impression that it needs little water; however the plant is actually a tropical jungle plant that likes high humidity. Water it thoroughly when the top half of the soil in the pot feels dry to the touch. Discard the excess water, and then do not water again until the top half becomes dry.

While the Christmas cactus can adapt to low light, more abundant blooms are produced on plants that have been exposed to high light intensity. Display the plant in a sunny location indoors, but away from drafts and heat sources. The Christmas cactus can be moved to a shady location outdoors in summer. When it's time to bring the plants back inside in the fall, slowly adjust it to life indoors by gradually increasing the number of hours it spends indoors each day.

Well-drained soil is a must for Christmas cactus. Use a commercially packaged potting mix for succulent plants or mix your own by combining two parts plain potting soil with one part clean sand or vermiculite.

Pruning your Christmas cactus after blooming will encourage the plant to branch out. Remove a few sections of each stem by pinching them off with your fingers or cutting with a sharp knife. These sections can be rooted in moist vermiculite to propagate new plants. Christmas cactus will bloom if given long uninterrupted dark periods. Begin the dark treatments in about mid-October to have plants in full bloom by the holidays. Alternatively, Christmas cactus will bloom if they are subjected to cool temperatures of about 50 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit at night. Plants will be ready for the holidays if the cool treatments are started by early November.

In addition to the Christmas cactus there is also a Thanksgiving cactus, and an Easter Cactus. The Thanksgiving Cactus (*Schlumbergera truncates*) has orange colored flowers and blooms around Thanksgiving and the Easter Cactus (*Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*) has pink flowers and blooms around Easter.

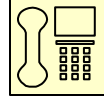
Resources:

http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/christmas_cactus.html

<http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/thankcac.htm>

Hello...Answer Line

By Rhonda Meiore



I had the opportunity to speak with Rene Mahoney, Project Chairman of the Answer Line. Rene will be spending some time with each of the 2004 interns on our first day working the Help Line. She will teach us how to use the computer and the telephone voice mail as well as providing us with basic instructions for handling incoming calls and email. Rene is also hopeful the Master Gardeners will volunteer to sit with us on our first day so we'll have help if we have a question. It's reassuring that we're going to have such a good introduction to such an important job. The Help Line is often the first experience the community has with the Extension Office, so it's important to make a good impression. Rene is quite willing to help us and I think we will enjoy working with her very much.

Speaking of enjoying our work with Rene on the Help Line, not one of the 2004 Interns has signed up to help on the phones during December and Rene is seeking help. Please call Sheila Nelson at 972-548-4232 to select the hours you would like to volunteer. It is the holiday season and call volumes are low so those of us who volunteer will work half shifts until the end of the year. Incidentally, Master Gardeners are welcome to volunteer too.

In addition to interviewing Rene Mahoney, I arbitrarily volunteered Renee Ferguson to spend over an hour on the phone with me so I could get her input as well. Actually, I called Renee Ferguson because I knew I was supposed to interview somebody named RENEE and she was the first Renee in the CCMG directory. It seemed to make sense to me at the time. While Renee has spent many productive hours responding to calls on the Answer Line she is not responsible for the day-to-day operation of it. Renee actually heads the Information Booth project. Silly mistake that is so typical of me on a busy, caffeine free day! It's not all bad though, my silly mistake proved to be rather propitious. Renee has so much experience with the Help Line she was able to provide me with some very good information for this article.

The hints and tips that were suggested are as follows:

- First and foremost, do not be afraid to tell the caller you need to research their question and call them back. In fact, some seasoned Master Gardener's don't answer any calls before they have had a chance to validate their answer and locate supporting documentation.
- When you do agree to call a customer back, please call him back as soon as possible. If you are unable to call the customer back, make a note for the next person on duty to call. It is very important to the reputation of the Master Gardeners and the Extension Office that we return calls when we say we will.
- Document the caller's name and phone number as quickly as you can after you answer the phone. This will ensure that you will be able to contact them should anything go wrong with the phone.
- Remember that the only answers we are ever allowed to give are research based answers sanctioned by Texas A&M. We are never to provide answers based on wives tales or grandmother's methods, nor are we to give out answers found through websites not sanctioned by A&M. If the caller wants to do something that just isn't practiced by A&M we can refer them to the web but we can't give them any technical, plant related information from an unsanctioned website.
- Make a habit of reviewing the call log from the previous week or two. Many of the calls you will get are seasonal, repeat questions and will have already been answered in the call log.
- Offer to give each caller the URL to the A&M horticultural website. It may or may not help them on the current call but it will be of great assistance to them in the future if they use it. Here's the URL if you should need it: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu> .

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

- Keep records of how you acquire your information so when you give the caller the answer to a question you can tell him where you did your research. In many cases, if the material is generally available the customer will use the same material to research future questions. Be sure to reference this information when you document your answer so other Master Gardener's will have this point of reference as well.
- At this time of year we tend to get a lot of tree questions. If the question requires more information than general tree planting instructions it is a good idea to give the customer a couple phone numbers of local arborists. People invest great sums of money in their trees and their questions are usually complicated. It's almost impossible to provide adequate assistance over the phone. Consulting a professional arborist is usually the best way for a caller to get the issue resolved.

The Help Line gets a lot of questions in fall about the following:

- Best trees and shrubs to buy for this area.
- Best time to plant trees and shrubs.
- What, when and how to prune.
- Insects – Last year many questions were about webworms, a few years ago there was an infestation of the Hackberry Caterpillar. Some questions will be surprises but there are also usually questions about insects that will overwinter in their garden and infest it next spring as well as questions involving the general bug population found in the fall.
- Weeds – Best way to remove them manually, when they should apply pre-emergent and if it's too late for post-emergent.
- Issues related to climate – primarily rain, freezes and thaws.
- Problems with St. Augustine grass, especially St. Augustine decline.
- Best practices for management of plants and turf over the winter.
- Irrigation – when and how much to water.
- Fertilizer – is it necessary to fertilize any trees, plants or turf in fall and winter?

- “Critters”, as in, “WHAT IS TEARING UP MY YARD?” or making noise in my walls, leaving droppings in my pantry, etcetera. The problems vary, a few are listed below:

- If they have grubs, they'll probably see the results of an Armadillo at work in their yard.
- If there's an easy way into the attic, they may hear or see a squirrel or roof rat seeking warmth.
- If there's an easy way into the house, they may see mice and/or rats seeking warmth and food.

Most critter questions will be about removing the animal and preventing return. If you get one about making the critter a pet you may have more issues than the average Master Gardener.

These are the types of questions received in the past. The answers are all well documented so you may want to review the literature we received in class and do some research on the Texas A&M website.

Landry, Rick, Becky and Sheila work in the extension office with you and are terrific sources of information. If you bring questions to them, it's best if you've done all of your own research first. You will also want to review the call log to see if someone else has asked the question already. If you still aren't sure of the answer it might be a good idea to ask these experts.

There's no reason to be nervous or intimidated about working on the Help Line. We are always free to research and verify our answers before we give them to the caller. There is no problem with calling a person back after we do our research as long as we call back when we say we will. One thing that may help us get used to being on the phone will be clearing the voice-mail out when we come in for our shifts. No one is actually waiting on the phone for an answer so it's quite easy to do the research before the customer is on the phone. Volunteering for the Help Line is a wonderful way for us to learn the things we'll need to know as we progress as Master Gardeners and it's a great way to get to know people in the community. I can't think of a reason not to sign up, can you?

Out and About ...

Activities and Events of Interest

Texas Trees Garden Walk

What: Guided tour covering everything you ever wanted to know about selecting, planting and maintaining trees. If you have questions about a tree in your yard or you're thinking about adding one, don't miss this opportunity to get expert advice. Tina Dombrowski, director of horticulture, will lead the tour spotlighting the wide variety of beautiful native trees at Texas Discovery Gardens. Ms. Dombrowski will discuss the advantages of choosing a native tree and the special characteristics of some popular Texas species.

When: 10 a.m. Saturday, January 15

Where: Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas, TX 75210

Cost: Adults \$3, seniors (60+) \$2, children (ages 3-11) \$1.50. Members of Texas Discovery Gardens and children under 3 are admitted free.

For more info: Call 214-428-7476 or visit the website at www.texasdiscoverygardens.org

About Texas Discovery Gardens

Texas Discovery Gardens is a year-round urban oasis located at historic Fair Park. A delightful, refreshing destination for local residents and out-of-town visitors, the gardens showcase beautiful native and adapted plants that are grown using sustainable methods that help to protect the environment. The first certified organic public garden in the state, Texas Discovery Gardens offers educational programs and exhibits that teach children and adults how to provide vital habitat for butterflies and other native Texas wildlife, add beauty, conserve water and restore the natural environment in urban areas. Texas Discovery Gardens is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is funded in part by the Dallas Park and Recreation Department.

The Texas Discovery Garden is looking for volunteers for workshops, Garden Festivals, School Programming and such. These projects will not count toward Master Gardener volunteer hours. Contact Sharon Meines at sjmeines@earthlink.net if you are interested.

CEMAP Update

By Mary Means

A recent visit to the CEMAP gardens treated the eyes to an array of fall colors. Maples, oaks and perennials contributed an assortment of colors and textures. The test beds are, for the most part, empty. Alongside some of the beds, flats of 4" flowers wait to be planted. Dr. Mackay says that the beds are too wet to plant in just now. Maybe a little later we'll be able to plant. He says there are over two thousand test plants which need to be planted. By next spring, these plants will make an impressive display for the Texas Master Gardener State Convention being held in Denton County. The plan now is to have self-guided tours on Thursday, May 5, 2005, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon. People will provide their own transportation to and from A&M Coit and the CEMAP gardens. In the meantime, watch for an announcement about a CEMAP gardening session sometime in the upcoming weeks. If you are not receiving e-mail announcements about CEMAP Gardening, but you would like to receive them, please contact me at mvmeans@swbell.net and give me your e-mail address. If you are receiving announcements but don't want to, please contact me. Happy Holidays. See you soon. Mary Means

WHAT TREE DID YOU FALL FROM?

(Disclaimer: This is for fun only, it is not scientific and not research based! The source and author are unknown.)

Find your birthday and then find your tree.

Dec 23 to Jan 01 - Apple Tree	Apr 21 to Apr 30 - Walnut Tree	Sep 03 to Sep 12 - Weeping Willow Tree
Jan 01 to Jan 11 - Fir Tree	May 01 to May 14 - Poplar Tree	Sep 13 to Sep 22 - Lime Tree
Jan 12 to Jan 24 - Elm Tree	May 15 to May 24 - Chestnut Tree	Sep 23 (only) - Olive Tree
Jan 25 to Feb 03 - Cypress Tree	May 25 to Jun 03 - Ash Tree	Sep 24 to Oct 03 - Hazelnut Tree
Feb 04 to Feb 08 - Poplar Tree	Jun 04 to Jun 13 - Hornbeam Tree	Oct 04 to Oct 13 - Rowan Tree
Feb 09 to Feb 18 - Cedar Tree	Jun 14 to Jun 23 - Fig Tree	Oct 14 to Oct 23 - Maple Tree
Feb 19 to Feb 28 - Pine Tree	Jun 24 (only) - Birch Tree	Oct 24 to Nov 11 - Walnut Tree
Mar 01 to Mar 10 - Weeping Willow Tree	Jun 25 to Jul 04 - Apple Tree	Nov 12 to Nov 21 - Chestnut Tree
Mar 11 to Mar 20 - Lime Tree	Jul 05 to Jul 14 - Fir Tree	Nov 22 to Dec 01 - Ash Tree
Mar 21 (only) - Oak Tree	Jul 15 to Jul 25 - Elm Tree	Dec 02 to Dec 11 - Hornbeam Tree
Mar 22 to Mar 31 - Hazelnut Tree	Jul 26 to Aug 04 - Cypress Tree	Dec 12 to Dec 21 - Fig Tree
Apr 01 to Apr 10 - Rowan Tree	Aug 05 to Aug 13 - Poplar Tree	Dec 22 (only) - Beech Tree
Apr 11 to Apr 20 - Maple Tree	Aug 14 to Aug 23 - Cedar Tree	
	Aug 24 to Sep 02 - Pine Tree	

YOUR TREE (in alphabetical order)

Apple Tree (Love) -- quiet and shy at times, lots of charm, appeal, and attraction, pleasant attitude, flirtatious smile, adventurous, sensitive, loyal in love, wants to love and be loved, faithful and tender partner, very generous, many talents, loves children, needs affectionate partner.

Ash Tree (Ambition) -- extremely attractive, vivacious, impulsive, demanding, does not care for criticism, ambitious, intelligent, talented, likes to play with fate, can be very egotistic, reliable, restless lover, sometimes money rules over the heart, demands attention, needs love and much emotional support.

Beech Tree (Creative) -- has good taste, concerned about its looks, materialistic, good organization of life and career, economical, good leader, takes no unnecessary risks, reasonable, splendid lifetime companion, keen on keeping fit (diets, sports, etc.).

Birch Tree (Inspiration) -- vivacious, attractive, elegant, friendly, unpretentious, modest, does not like anything in excess, abhors the vulgar, loves life in nature and in calm, not very passionate, full of imagination, little ambition, creates a calm and content atmosphere.

Cedar Tree (Confidence) -- of rare strength, knows how to adapt, likes unexpected presents, of good health, not in the least shy, tends to look down on others, self-confident, a great speaker, determined, often impatient, likes to impress others, has many talents, industrious, healthy optimism, waits for the one true love, able to make quick decisions.

Chestnut Tree (Honesty) -- of unusual stature, impressive, well-developed sense of justice, fun to be around, a planner, born diplomat, can be irritated easily, sensitive of others feelings, hard worker, sometimes acts superior, feels not understood at times, fiercely family oriented, very loyal in love, physically fit.

Cypress Tree (Faithfulness) -- strong, muscular, adaptable, takes what life has to give but doesn't necessarily like it, strives to be content, optimistic, wants to be financially independent, wants love and affection, hates loneliness, passionate lover which cannot be satisfied, faithful, quick-tempered at times, can be unruly and careless, loves to gain knowledge, needs to be needed.

Elm Tree (Noble-mindedness) -- pleasant shape, tasteful clothes, modest demands, tends not to forgive mistakes, cheerful, likes to lead but not to obey, honest and faithful partner, likes making decisions for others, noble-minded, generous, good sense of humor, practical.

Fig Tree (Sensibility) -- very strong minded, a bit self-willed, honest, loyal, independent, hates contradiction or arguments, hard worker when wants to be, loves life and friends, enjoys children and animals, few sexual relationships, great sense of humor, has artistic talent and great intelligence.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Fir tree (Mysterious) -- extraordinary taste, handles stress well, loves anything beautiful, stubborn, tends to care for those close to them, hard to trust others, yet a social butterfly, likes idleness and laziness after long demanding hours at work, rather modest, talented, unselfish, many friends, very reliable.

Hazelnut Tree (Extraordinary) -- charming, sense of humor, very demanding but can also be very understanding, knows how to make a lasting impression, active fighter for social causes and politics, popular, quite moody, sexually oriented, honest, a perfectionist, has a precise sense of judgment and expects complete fairness.

Hornbeam Tree (Good Taste) -- of cool beauty, cares for its looks and condition, good taste, is not egoistic, makes life as comfortable as possible, leads a reasonable and disciplined life, looks for kindness and acknowledgment in an emotional partner, dreams of unusual lovers, is seldom happy with its feelings, mistrusts most people, is never sure of its decisions, very conscientious.

Lime Tree (Doubt) - intelligent, hard working, accepts what life dishes out, but not before trying to change bad circumstances into good ones, hates fighting and stress, enjoys getaway vacations, may appear tough, but is actually soft and relenting, always willing to make sacrifices for family and friends, has many talents but not always enough time to use them, can become a complainer, great leadership qualities, is jealous at times but extremely loyal.

Maple Tree (Independence of Mind) -- no ordinary person, full of imagination and originality, shy and reserved, ambitious, proud, self-confident, hungers for new experiences, sometimes nervous, has many complexities, good memory, learns easily, complicated love life, wants to impress.

Oak Tree (Brave) -- robust nature, courageous, strong, unrelenting, independent, sensible, does not like change, keeps its feet on the ground, person of action.

Olive Tree (Wisdom) -- loves sun, warmth and kind feelings, reasonable, balanced, avoids aggression and violence, tolerant, cheerful, calm, well-developed sense of justice, sensitive, empathetic, free of jealousy, loves to read and the company of sophisticated people.

Pine Tree (Peacemaker) -- loves agreeable company, craves peace and harmony, loves to help others, active imagination, likes to write poetry, not fashion conscious, great compassion, friendly to all, falls strongly in love but will leave if betrayed or lied to, emotionally soft, low self esteem, needs affection and reassurance.

Poplar Tree (Uncertainty) -- looks very decorative, talented, not very self-confident, extremely courageous if necessary, needs goodwill and pleasant surroundings, very choosy, often lonely, great animosity, great artistic nature, good organizer, tends to lean toward philosophy, reliable in any situation, takes partnership seriously.

Rowan Tree (Sensitivity) -- full of charm, cheerful, gifted without egoism, likes to draw attention, loves life, motion, unrest, and even complications, is both dependent and independent, good taste, artistic, passionate, emotional, good company, does not forgive.

Walnut Tree (Passion) -- unrelenting, strange and full of contrasts, often egotistic, aggressive, noble, broad horizon, unexpected reactions, spontaneous, unlimited ambition, no flexibility, difficult and uncommon partner, not always liked but often admired, ingenious strategist, very jealous and passionate, no compromise.

Weeping Willow (Melancholy) - likes to be stress free, loves family life, full of hopes and dreams, attractive, very empathetic, loves anything beautiful, musically inclined, loves to travel to exotic places, restless, capricious, honest, can be influenced but is not easy to live with when pressured, sometimes demanding, good intuition, suffers in love until they find that one loyal, steadfast partner; loves to make others laugh.

This and That

- **Help at the Heard.** The dates are Friday, December 3rd, Thursday, December 9th, or Saturday, December 11th. The work will begin around 9:00 a.m. Charlene is flexible as to when you start and finish. Tasks will include such items as cutting plants back, putting down mulch, raking leaves and possibly some seed collecting. If you are interested in helping on any of these days, give Charlene a call at (972) 562-5566 extension 244.
- **CCMGA DUES are due by JANUARY 1st!** The Holidays are approaching and we all get busy, so send your check today: \$15.00, made payable to CCMGA, to the Treasurer at 771 Timberwood Lane, Fairview, TX 75069-9180. \$2.00 of our dues provides your membership in the State organization.
- **Next Meeting will be January 19th at the Heard Museum.** This will be a business meeting.

CCMGA
Texas Cooperative Extension Office
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