

The week ahead

TUESDAY HEALTHY LIVING

'LISTEN UP, YOU PANSIES!'
Need guidance through your workout? Look no further than your MP3 player

WEDNESDAY TASTE

FINS TO THE LEFT, FINS TO THE RIGHT:
From Thai-style tuna to Southwestern catfish, make dinner fast on the grill

NEXT WEEK HOME

SOMETIMES, IT'S JUST FOR ATMOSPHERE:
All-weather fans stand up to rain, heat or cold, and they're stylish, too

Today on dallasnews.com

Garden checklist

Online: We've rounded up your July chores, such as deadheading the roses.

dallasnews.com/home



Having steak?

Video: Watch Chef Richard Chamberlain's techniques for the perfect grilled steak.

dallasnews.com/lifestyles

Stars workout

Video: Work out like the Dallas Stars with this circuit-training program.

dallasnews.com/lifestyles

HOME

© 2007 The Dallas Morning News
dallasnews.com

Features Editor: Cathy Barber
Home Editor: Mariana Greene
Assistant Editor: Misty Bailey

CONTACT US

Phone: 214-977-8834
E-mail: home@dallasnews.com
Mail: P.O. Box 655237
Dallas, TX 75265
Advertising: 214-977-8000

What's the shelf life of organic pest control?

I have some *Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis)* left over from 2004. Is it still good, or does this product expire?

L.J., Red Oak

There is no way to know for sure, but that is a long time to save this organic pest control. It probably won't hurt to try it, but don't expect great results.

I love peace lily (*Spathiphyllum wallisii*), but I don't know how to prevent the leaf tips from turning brown.

J.E., McKinney

Leaf tip burn can be caused by dry soil or the salt in synthetic fertilizers. On indoor plants, I use coffee grounds, earthworm castings, compost tea, Garrett Juice and other gentle organic fertilizers.

The branches of my cedar and juniper trees are turning brown at the tips. I've noticed that other cedars and junipers in my neighborhood have the same problem. Is some kind of blight or insect causing this?

S.C., China Spring

No, there's just been too much rain lately, so the trees are under stress. I hope you are using an organic program because synthetic fertilizers and pesticides will cause even more stress discoloration.

What are your thoughts about the oak wilt warnings we are hearing this summer?

A.A., Dallas

I think the scare is somewhat overblown. I don't recommend chemical injections for trees. Use my Sick Tree Treatment instead (see Resources).

I have been battling nutsedge around a swimming pool for seven years. I have heard that removing this weed by hand causes it to multiply faster.

G.A., Dallas

Hand removal and heavy applications of molasses work over time (see Resources). Chemical herbicides harm trees and other plants.

How can we keep spiders off our patio cover and playground equipment?

H.R., Fort Worth

A spray made with 2 ounces of orange oil per gallon of water probably would work best. A broom and a vacuum cleaner are good tools, too. Although they are

ORGANIC ANSWERS



HOWARD GARRETT
home@dallasnews.com

a nuisance, spiders are beneficial to the environment.

I have three staghorn ferns in pots. They are doing well, but my wife wants me to mount them on plywood so I can hang them on the patio wall. What is the best way to do this?

R.U., Dallas

Buy hooks that can be screwed into the wood. The ferns can be hung on the hooks. For additional strength, wire can be punched through the base of each fern and connected to screws or the hooks. You'll need to be careful when watering the ferns. And use only organic fertilizers.

During a spring storm, we lost half of a Bradford pear tree. I now have 1 1/2 pear trees near my circular driveway. Should I prune both trees to the same height, leave them alone, or cut them down and start over?

R.B., Dallas

If you prune broken branches

out of the damaged tree, it eventually should fill out somewhat. Don't prune the good tree to match it. The best long-term plan is to remove both trees and replace them with longer-lasting trees. Bradford pears are very vulnerable to storm damage.

Editor's Note: In his June 29 column, Mr. Garrett recommended using granulated garlic to repel mosquitoes and pests on tomato plants. Granulated garlic is dehydrated garlic that has been cleaned, sliced and milled to the desired size. It can be purchased at large grocery stores and some Asian markets, and it is also available at www.spicebarn.com by the pound for \$5.29. "I also recommend everyone grow garlic so you have your own source," says Mr. Garrett. "It's easy to grow and has great food value as well."

RESOURCES

ONLINE: www.dirtdoctor.com for free organic-program handouts

RADIO: KSKY-AM (660), Saturday 11 a.m.-noon and Sunday 8-11 a.m. www.ksky.com.

MAIL: P.O. Box 140650, Dallas, TX 75214

CHORES

Waterlogged plants may need a breather

By RICK ROSEN
Staff Writer
rosen@dallasnews.com

Like people, plants can drown. If your garden was flooded recently and was underwater for long periods, it's probably time to perform CPR on your plants.

Plant roots need oxygen, and when soil is waterlogged, there isn't much oxygen to absorb. With our record rainfall, many plant beds have become like sponges in a bowl of water, holding in water and excluding oxygen.

The symptoms of dying roots are the same for trees, shrubs or flowers, says Texas Cooperative Extension horticulturist Dale Groom. As confusing as it sounds, the leaves look dry, as if they were not getting enough water: They yellow at the tips and edges. Or, in the case of azaleas, the leaves wilt.

What can homeowners do to save plants? Get physical: Pull back any mulch and punch holes in the bed. Dig around the roots with a shovel and remove some of the soggy soil. If plants are underwater for long periods, dig

them up and replant them in drier places. Create avenues for oxygen to get to the roots any way you can.

In the long term, homeowners can help their plants survive future floods by building raised beds, Mr. Groom says.

The EarthKind bed preparation recommended by Extension calls for tilling 3 inches each of expanded shale and organic matter into the soil; crown the bed 6 to 9 inches in the center to help with drainage. Mulch heavily.

The Extension's method also helps with another flooding problem. The rains have washed away nutrients and fertilizers. Much of that ends up in the water supply.

With the EarthKind method, you periodically pile mulch, which acts as a slow-release fertilizer, on top of the bed. You never have to add chemical or organic fertilizers.

For now, watch your trees, shrubs and other plants for signs of distress. As with other drowning victims, you'll have to act fast.

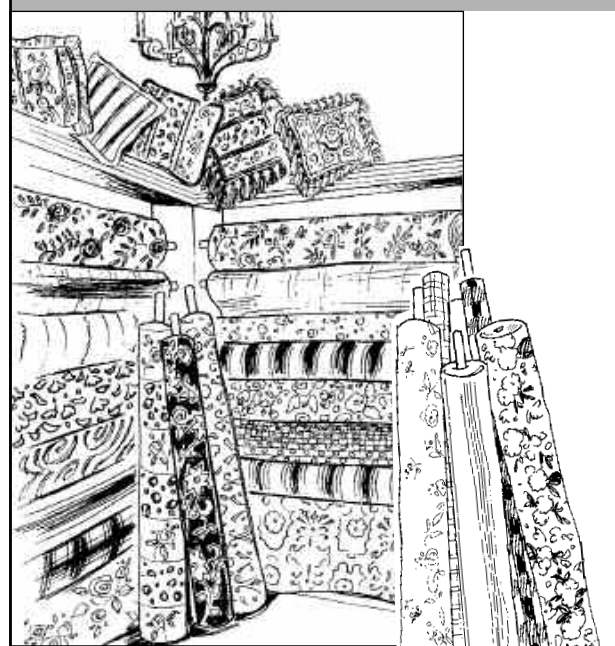
View better. Critique better.

GuideLive

Before you get in line for that movie, check out our review. Every Friday.

The Dallas Morning News
dallasnews.com
Live Better Here.

Shopping the town

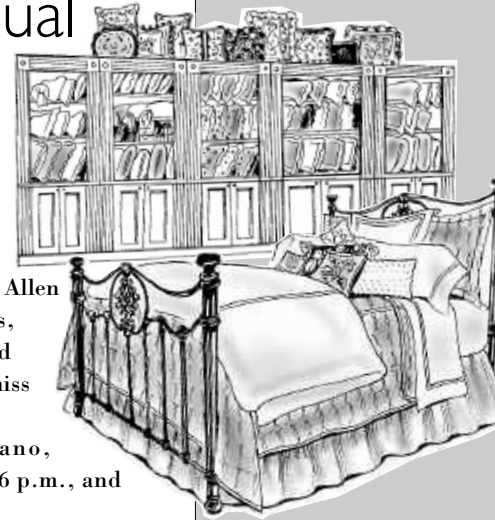


Rutherford's Warehouse Sale

Round up the gals next week and head to Dallas for Rutherford's Warehouse Blowout Sale! For three days only, all fabrics will be \$8 a yard or less. Select trims are just \$3 per yard and all accessories will be 75% off! Stop in from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, July 12-14 for incredible bargains. **Rutherford's**, 7411 Hines Place, No. 209, Dallas. 214-459-0003 or 214-357-0888. www.rutherforddesign.com.

Barklee's Semi-Annual Clearance Sale

Be sure to shop during our huge semi-annual clearance sale. All in-store merchandise and special orders are 20% off, including Bella Notte, Ann Gish, Scandia Down, Sferra Bros., Nancy Koltes & Fino Lino. Save 20% on Wesley Allen Iron Beds, needlepoint pillows, candles, napkins, decorative soaps. Display items and discontinued items are 40% - 75% off! You will not want to miss this event! Sale runs July 9 thru July 21. **Barklee Ltd.**, Preston Park Village, Plano, 972-612-1935. Open Mon.-Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



SEVEN SALE

07-07-07 only happens once every century! We are celebrating with a sale. Check out the rack of \$7 clothing. **The Store in Lake Highlands**, 10233 E. Northwest Hwy. at Ferndale Road, Suite 410, Dallas. 214-553-8850. Monday - Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



PASS IT ON

OFFERINGS

Flowers and plants: ageratum, asters, cannas (yellow), English ivy (large and small), irises (several colors), lemon mint, liriopse, mint, monkey grass, shasta daisies and wild violets. Call after 9 a.m. Mrs. Bailey, Dallas, 214-692-8384.

Parrot feather (an oxygenating pond plant). Lots of it has been removed from a pond. Bring containers for hauling. Call after 10 a.m. Natalie, Richardson, 214-212-2350.

FOR A NONPROFIT

Minolta Di 151 fax-copier with additional letter-size paper tray and two new cartridges. Working condition. You haul. Lois, Dallas, 214-361-5949 ext. 103.

Misty Bailey
mibailey@dallasnews.com



A Dallas Tradition

celebrating 50 years of success!

Shopping the Town runs every Friday in the Home section.

To advertise in these sections, contact your Dallas Morning News account representative or Denise Sanders at 214-977-2044.



5 25 50 75 95