

Bulbs to be Offered at 2015 Fall Plant Sale

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



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Amaryllis is a popular bulb that dependably provides stellar performances in local landscapes over the month of April. The Master Gardeners' Fall Plant Sale on October 10 will offer several varieties of Amaryllis in a range of colors (pictured above is Amaryllis 'Double Record').

The Master Gardener 2015 Fall Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Carbide Park located at 4102 Main Street in La Marque. I feel I am mimicking some television commercials in stating that the upcoming sale will be new and different. Even so, the sale will really be different in many aspects. In fact, the upcoming

plant sale will be different enough to warrant a new name. Since the first Master Gardener fall plant sale was held in the mid-nineties, it was referred to as the O&P Plant Sale (the O&P referring to ornamentals and perennials). Next month's sale is now known as the Fall Plant Sale. There will still be a good selection of perennials

and ornamentals ranging from tropical plants to plants for butterfly and hummingbird gardens that are known to be Texas-tough performers in our Texas Gulf Coast growing area. There will be a good selection of citrus in addition to avocados, blueberries and figs which have not been offered at previous fall sales. Planting citrus and cer-



tain fruit trees in the fall afford the plants an extended period of time to establish a vigorous root system before the onset of higher temperatures when the summer season approaches.

There will be a good selection of vegetable transplants (another reason for the name change) well-suited for fall gardening. We offered fall vegetables for the first time at last fall's sale. It was really well-received by customers. All of the broccoli transplants were swiped up by mid-morning but what was most surprising was how fast the kale sold. Rest assured that a larger quantity of kale has been ordered for the 2015 Fall Plant Sale.

There will be a Master Gardeners' crafts booth with a good selection of handmade items including wind chimes, decorative planters and bird feeders.

There will be a good selection of bulbs and this is a new offering. There will be an array of Amaryllis, Crinum and Daffodil bulbs available. Experienced gardeners know that planting these hardy, easy-to-grow bulbs in the garden this fall is as natural as falling leaves and fall football games.

Bulbs are truly some of the simplest of flowers to grow. All they ask for is a fall planting. Depending on which types are grown, bulbs will reward you with weeks of color, fragrance and beauty from early spring

through summer.

Success with bulbs will depend to a large extent on the selection of good, healthy, high quality bulbs. High quality bulbs produce flowers the first season after planting, as the flower buds are already formed when the bulbs are purchased and planted.

Experienced gardeners are also aware that not all varieties produce well in the South. Yet there remain enough successful types to make the decision about which to choose very difficult.

Some spring bulbs require a cold treatment prior to planting to have them perform better in this region of Texas where the winters are comparatively mild. None of the bulbs to be offered require such a cold treatment and October is a good time to plant such bulbs.

The wonderful thing about the bulbs that are hearty for our area is that they multiply. Gardeners typically do not give much pause at paying \$10 for a plant in a gallon size pot, but that handful of bulbs for the same price may not seem like a bargain, but wait till they start multiplying!

Bulbs to be offered that naturalize in our growing area include *Leucojum* (summer snowflakes), *Narcissus* (including paperwhites), *Crinum* and several *Amaryllis* varieties (including Apple Blossom, Double Record, Picotee, Royal Velvet and Bestseller)

providing a range of colors.

Amaryllis is a popular bulb that dependably provides stellar performances in local landscapes over the month of April. Few flowering bulbs can surpass the stately beauty of the *Amaryllis*.

Amaryllis readily adapts to our Gulf Coast landscapes and once established can become a long-lasting part of the landscape with minimal care.

Amaryllis produces large, trumpet-shaped flowers, growing as large as eight inches across in clusters of two-to-six flowers per stem. The leafless, hollow stems can grow to be two to three feet tall.

Whether you've never grown bulbs before, or you have been growing them for years, they are a good investment for providing striking and dependable flower color in local landscapes.

Be sure to make a notation on your gardening to-do list to attend the Master Gardeners' Fall Plant Sale on October 10.

