

Ask The Plant Groom(tm) by Dale Groom, The Plant Groom(tm)

For: QA1097

I brought in a large Boston fern for the winter and set it close to my front door. It has made my house smell musty, like mildew. Have I watered it too much? I thought I had worked hard to only water it when it felt dry. I hope you have an idea about what I can do about this problem. Thanks, BB

I don't see it as a "problem", ferns are suppose to smell earthy. Keep on ... "keeping on".

I have recently built a large arbor in my back yard and have planted wisteria as the cover. I have had several people tell me I do not want to introduce it into my yard because it is so invasive.

Do they send runners under the ground or reproduce by seed?

If I keep it pruned back will that be enough to keep it under control and contained?

Thanks for your time! - S. R.

Wisterias should be utilized on strong landscape structures away from your home, garage or other similar structures.

They are very long lived plants offering interesting applications on pergolas, arches, arbors and other structures in the landscape and away from buildings, trees and other landscape plantings.

Their fragrance and bloom color are super for the short time they bloom during early spring.

Wisteria is a plant that will "rock 'n roll" in the landscape once established. Yes, it does produce seed and runners. It is a vine and therefore it will ... RUN. Pruning may be employed to keep the plant growing in desired directions and form. Seed pods should not present a problem.

I have been trying to find information on the best pecan trees to plant

at home. Although I have come across quite a bit of useful information,

I still have not found any specific type recommendations for my area.

I live in North Texas and was wondering if you know where to lead me; or if you know which varieties are best for this area?

Thanks for your time and consideration of my request. - T. B.

This is pecan tree planting time in Texas!!!

Some of the best pecan trees for North, South, East or West Texas include what is often called "the Indian varieties". These include but aren't limited to: 'Kiowa', 'Shawnee', 'Caddo', 'Choctaw' and 'Cheyenne'. 'Desirable is also a good variety'.

All these varieties are considered to be paper shell types.

Spacing at 50' on center is recommended.

For more information on Texas pecans visit [plant answers.com](http://plantanswers.com).

Dale Groom, Extension Horticulturist and Master Gardener Program Coordinator-Dallas County, Native Texan, Columnist, Author, Radio/TV Host is also known state wide as The Plant Groom(tm). You may send your horticultural related questions to Dale at dalegroom@mycvc.net. To receive free live help M - F, 8:30am - 4pm call the Master Gardeners Help Desk at 214-904-3053.

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