

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

For: QA1084

I have really enjoyed your "Texas Gardening Guide".

I live where the soil is the black clay. What tree could you recommend that I could possibly plant in my front lawn?

Here are some more details/concerns.....

I have a one story house and I prefer not to have a tree that seems to over power my house.

I would like one that has GREAT fall foliage.....red or yellow.

I have room for two trees.

Most of my neighbors have elm trees.....mine did not live.

I am very worried that my Bermuda lawn will not survive with a big shade tree.....I really like the Bermuda. The front lawn is on the east side of my house.

I really appreciate your help. - R. R.

I'm pleased to know you are enjoying one of my books.

Most "shade" trees will put out too much shade for a thick Bermuda lawn. Bermuda grass does best in day long full sun locations. If your main interest is a thick Bermuda lawn ... don't plant any shade tree

One super shade tree with outstanding fall color is Chinese Pistachio. It will grow in the clay soils anywhere in Texas. A smaller tree with super spring color is 'Oklahoma' variety of redbud. It too grows in clay soils.

Review my Trees chapter plus "native" trees in the Natives section of 'Dale Groom's Texas Gardening Guide: Revised Edition'.

I'm looking for a shrub to grow into a hedge other than privet or boxwood in full sun. Also, will yew grow in our climate? - A. C.

The #1 family to look at for shrubs in Texas is holly. There are many types including dwarf yapon which makes a nice hedge without any prickly points.

We enjoy Indian hawthorne and 5 varieties of nandina in our landscape. Hollies, nandinas and Indian hawthorne will all grow in full sun when properly planted and cared for.

The true yew or taxus has been grown successfully in Texas. They may be rather hard to find and are usually not fond of our summers.

My latest full color book 'Dale Groom's Texas Gardening Guide: Revised Edition' has 168 landscape plant groups covered in it including a Shrub chapter plus another chapter covering Natives. If you wish to secure a personalized 1st edition copy of this book send \$29. to TGGR Book, P. O. Box 365, Eustace, TX 75124.

You may also call me any Sat. 9-10am state wide and toll free in Texas when needing additional assistance at 1-800-477-5822.

I would like to know if I can transplant an established crape myrtle? - D. N.

Yes, crape myrtles can and are successfully transplanted. This includes small seedlings to large tree type specimens.

This is not the time to transplant crape myrtles or any other woody plant. The best time to transplant existing woody plants is during the dormant season. The dormant season occurs after a hard killing freeze through the beginning of new spring growth. Calendar wise the best time is Dec. through early Feb.

Love to read your column! Have a question for you.

We have a bed around a big oak tree that has azaleas, day lilies, and a bunch of hostas. We want to redo this bed and raise it slightly but don't want to lose the hostas. When can we move them or can we leave them and have them still come up next spring? We won't do the bed remodel until this year's "second growing season" around Oct/Nov.

Thanks for any and all help. - D. S.

Thanks for your kind comment regarding my column.

Daylily and hosta could be moved now or Oct. - Nov. successfully. The azaleas should only be moved during the dormant season. This season is usually Dec. through early Feb. Daylily and Hosta can also be successfully moved during the dormant season.

Dale Groom, CEA-Horticulture, Native Texas Horticulturist, Columnist, Author, Radio/TV Host is also known as The Plant Groom(tm) state wide. You may send any horticultural related question to Dale at dalegroom@mycvc.net To receive free help by phone M-F, 8:30am - 4pm call the Master Gardeners at 214-904-2053.

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