



SINCE 1974



## "Clippings"

*Monthly Tips to Help You Care For and Maintain Your Landscape*



- During the first ten days of September, start and finish light pruning of Roses.
- Plant wildflower seeds early in the month, so early fall rains can break seed coats allowing germination. Wildflowers must establish deep roots before winter.
- Overseed warm season turf with perennial Rye for winter. It will die away with the first hot days of summer. Green Grass can provide this service.
- Divide Daylilies, Daisies, Cannas, Oxalis, Bearded Iris and other perennials where needed.
- Fertilize fall annual flowers and vegetables with complete, balanced analysis plant food.
- Apply acidifying iron supplements to Azaleas, Camellias, Dogwoods, Gardenias, Magnolias, etc. about mid-month.
- Apply soil acidifier to chlorotic (yellowing) plants, turf and trees.
- Thin fall vegetables to recommended stands.
- September is the month to plant container grown trees and shrubs. Dormant strawberries can be planted now too. Be sure to mulch well.
- This is an excellent time to apply pre-emergents to your turf areas.
- If it has rained, you'll probably see raised fire ant mounds in your yard. Use baits or individual mound treatments to keep the ants in check. More mounds could develop as the ants re-populate from neighboring untreated properties.
- Be sure beds and tree rings are well mulched.
- Check all stations in your sprinkler system to make sure it is in good working condition.
- You can overseed your lawn with perennial Rye grass for winter. The Rye grass will die away with the first hot days of summer, just as your warm-season turf starts to green up. Green Grass can provide this service for you.
- Remove fallen nuts, twigs and leaves from your yard. Unseasonal droppings may mean disease or insect infestation. Removal helps prevent spread or re-infestation.

**GREEN GRASS CAN PROVIDE ANY AND ALL OF THESE SERVICES FOR YOU**

# "Firebush"



Few plants really relish our Texas heat from July to September, but the firebush seems to thrive on it. Firebush is a large shrub or small tree native to Mexico and is a dependable and useful perennial for southern Texas where it may freeze to the ground but will re-sprout each spring.

It usually makes a 4 to 5 foot mound of reddish orange flowers from early summer to late fall. In addition to its long blooming season, there are several other significant attributes of the plant. Firebush is very drought tolerant and thrives in most any soil as long as it is well drained. Full sun or partially shaded locations are best. Shady locations will result in rank growth and little bloom.

The foliage often turns bright red just before freezing back, and the small dark fruit is edible. In Mexico, a fermented drink is said to be made from the fruit. The leaves and stems have been used for tanning and a concoction from the leaves reportedly is used for various medical purposes. The flower buds last longer than the flowers themselves, and appear in great numbers. After maturing, the flowers drop off quickly and the plant requires only occasional shearing to keep it in a nearly perpetual state of bloom.

Another common name is hummingbird bush. Hummingbirds are attracted to the tubular red flowers and add another value to the plant. Propagation is by seed or half-ripe cutting rooted under glass. Firebush is useful as a container plant, in masses or located at the back of wide border plantings.

Have a Glorious Day and Please, . . . Enjoy the Outdoors,

Francisco Suarez-Pella, Owner  
Green Grass Inc.

## Safety Tip

**IS YOUR  
DRINKING  
WATER SAFE ?**



If you have a sprinkler system you should have a backflow prevention device. If you don't, your house water may not be safe. Green Grass has licensed Backflow Inspectors and Installers. Call us for more details!