



by Carol Seminara, HCMG

## How to Seem to Know It All

As a Certified Hill Country Master Gardener, I am frequently approached with an array of interesting and challenging horticultural questions. People see my laminated badge and assume I can identify the erect, bushy plant with compound palmated leaves that sprang up in their bar ditch (turned out it was a type of rosemallow) or figure out why their azaleas are sickly (they demand an acid soil).

Thus education is one of my primary duties as a HCMG and, while I may not have all the answers, my training has afforded me a vast network of resources and a keen ability to utilize them.

In other words, I may not know the answer, but I usually know where to find it. To that end, I've created a list of useful reference tools to aid in me in my search for enlightenment. I am sharing a portion of my trove of tomes, grouped below in random order by category.

### Pamphlets:

*Native and Adapted Landscape Plants: Grow Green, an Earthwise Guide for Central Texas.*

Published by Texas Cooperative Extension and the City of Austin, [www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org), Feb 2007

Free in Austin, \$2 maximum price outside of Austin. A "List of native and adapted plants suitable for Austin area gardens."

*San Antonio Landscape Care Guide.*

Published by San Antonio Water System (SAWS), P.O. Box 2449, San Antonio, TX 78298-2449, [www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org), 2005. A "Seasonal guide to maintaining a low-water usage landscape."

### Books:

*Perennial Gardens for Texas.* By Julie Ryan, University of Texas Press, 1998.

*Herbs for Texas: A study of the landscape, culinary, and medicinal uses and benefits of the herbs that can be grown in Texas.* By Howard Garrett, University of Texas Press, 2001.

*Wildflowers, Trees, and Shrubs of Texas.* By Delena Tull and George Oxford Miller, rev. ed. 1999.

*Grasses of the Texas Hill Country: A field guide.* By Brian Loflin and Shirley Loflin, Texas A&M University Press, 2006.

*Texas Wildflowers.* By Campbell and Lynn Loughmiller, University of Texas Press, 10th ed. 2002.

*How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest.* By Jill Nokes, University of Texas Press, rev. ed. 2001.

*Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac.* By Douglas F. Welsh, Texas A&M University Press, 2007.

*Trees, Shrubs, & Vines of the Texas Hill Country.* By Jan Wrede, Texas A&M University Press, 2005.

*Month-by-Month Gardening in Texas.* By Dale Groom and Dan Gill, Cool Springs Press, 2000.

*Texas Bug Book: The good, the bad, and the ugly.* By Howard Garrett & C. Malcolm Beck, University of Texas Press, rev. ed. 2005.

*Dale Groom's Texas Gardening Guide.* By Dale Groom, Cool Springs Press, rev. ed. 2002.

*Diane's Garden Diary.* By Diane Matthews, published by Jack and Diane Matthews, Fredericksburg, TX, 1976. "Down to earth" guide to gardening in the Texas Hill Country.

*Home Landscaping Texas.* By Greg Grant and Roger Holmes, Creative Homeowner, 2004.

*Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife.* By Noreen Damude and Kelly Conrad Bender, Texas Parks and Wildlife Press, 1999.

*Native Texas Gardens: Maximum beauty, minimum upkeep.* By Sally and Andy Wasowski, Taylor Trade Publishing, 2003.

*Texas Gardening the Natural Way: The complete handbook.* By Howard Garrett, University of Texas Press, 2004. "A total gardening program – How to design, plant, and maintain gardens and lawns in Texas."

### Periodicals:

Texas Gardener. Published by Suntex Communications, Inc., bimonthly, [www.texasgardener.com](http://www.texasgardener.com).

"The magazine for Texas gardeners, by Texas gardeners."

Neil Sperry's Gardens. Published by Neil Sperry's Gardens Magazine, bimonthly,

[www.neilsperry.com](http://www.neilsperry.com). "The definitive word in Texas horticulture."

Garden Gate. Published by August Home Publishing Co., bimonthly, [www.GardenGateMagazine.com](http://www.GardenGateMagazine.com).

Garden Design. Published by Bonier Corporation, monthly, [www.gardendesign.com](http://www.gardendesign.com).

### Websites:

[www.plantanswers.com](http://www.plantanswers.com) Answer Man Jerry Parson, Ph.D., horticulture specialist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in San Antonio.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu> "Aggie Horticulture Network, the combined information resources of the teaching, research, and extension program at the Texas A&M University System."

[http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/bio406d/PlantPics\\_archive.htm](http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/bio406d/PlantPics_archive.htm) "Image archive of Central Texas Plants.

This site is administered as part of the course website for Native Plants of Central Texas at the University of Texas at Austin. Contains links to digital images of central Texas plants, arranged by scientific name."

Use these and seem to be knowledgeable.