

## Who we are...

CARE is a grassroots group founded by residents and approved by the Crownridge Board and HOA, to provide neighbors with **Curb Appeal Resources and Education (CARE)**.

This idea evolved from a discussion at the annual Crownridge membership meeting in March. CARE desires to provide residents information to update, restore and maintain their home lawn and gardens in order to maximize property values and maintain an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood.

CARE seeks to not only share gardening passion with neighbors, but also desires to create a community network to further build pride in ownership of homes and neighborhood.

CARE members Jan Craven, BJ Davis, Heidi Kabanek and Sheri Zorrilla hope to build on this interest that was expressed by other residents at the meeting. Jan and BJ are Master Gardeners, while Heidi and Sheri are "trial-by-error" gardeners with a passion for gardening.

As interest grows, CARE will host neighborhood meetings to share ideas, trade plants and get to know neighbors. Timely newsletters on landscaping issues, available resources and tips for maximizing your property's curb appeal will also be sent out via the Crownridge e-blast. If you are interested in additional information, contact Heidi Kabanek @ [HMKabanek@aol.com](mailto:HMKabanek@aol.com).

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."-----

*Margaret Mead*

## Plant of the Month



### New Gold™ Lantana

Drought tolerant, heat loving, low maintenance perennial with a wealth of golden yellow flowers. Deer tolerant. With appropriate care, perennials come back year after year.

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Size:** Low growing.

Height 2 feet tall, 4 feet wide

**Bloom Time:** Spring till frost

**For Further Information:**

[www.texassuperstar.com](http://www.texassuperstar.com)

Support Local: Leon Springs Farmers Market on Saturday mornings from 8:30a-12p at the Baptist Church parking lot behind HEB.

## Mulching Matters

- **What is mulch?**

Mulch is essential to the landscape and garden here in South Texas. Mulch is any organic (leaves, shredded tree bark) or inorganic substance (flagstone, river rock, etc.) spread on the ground to protect plant roots from heat, cold or drought. It helps prevent weeds, conserves water by insulating the soil and deters soil erosion. While inorganic mulch is appropriate in certain places, in this newsletter we will focus on organic mulch, because it has the added benefit of enriching the soil over time. Plants grow best when planted in healthy soil.

- **What are different types of organic mulch?**

There are many types of organic mulches. Two that are excellent for this area are shredded tree bark and leaves off our trees. The City of San Antonio offers residents coarse, shredded brush mulch for FREE at the 1800 Bitters brush collection site 7 days/week. Fine mulch is available for approximately \$22 per regular truck load. Bring your own truck and shovel, because you have to load it yourself. For more information, contact the City of San Antonio at 311.

Leaves are a great mulch and they are available in the fall when the deciduous trees drop their leaves and then again in March when the live oak tree leaves drop. Don't send this precious organic material to the garbage dump.

Your favorite nursery has bags of mulch and various soil companies here in town deliver large quantities right to your door.

- **When do I mulch and how much is needed?**

It's best to mulch 2 times per year; in the spring due to the impending summer heat, and in the Fall with the upcoming winter. Spread 3-4 inches of mulch over roots of newly planted trees and shrubs and 1-2 inches in vegetable gardens and flowerbeds. It is important to keep mulches out of direct contact with tree trunks, crowns and plant stems which need breathing room. Provide a 2 to 4 inch circumference with a low hill-shaped mound circulating the plant.

For more detailed information visit [www.plantanswers.com/watersavers](http://www.plantanswers.com/watersavers)